

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 210

MONDAY JULY 28, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



POLL RESULTS

Do you patronize the Farmers' Market on Tuesdays or the Sabalu Market on Saturdays?

Always	31
Sometimes	38
Rarely	15
Never	21

Sunday, July 27, 2008

INSIDE



India Blasts

Bombs explode near a busy market and a hospital in a western Indian city, killing 29 people.

ASIA...Page 16



Bloody Genius

Michael Caine is having a bloody good time. He's got the bloody boffo house in the English countryside with the bloody huge garden.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

LaoLao project swings to action

The CNMI will get a world-class golf course and hotel when this is finished. It will be outstanding.

—Yun Kim, president of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The LaoLao Bay Golf Resort is seeing a flurry of construction and renovation activity now and much more is to come as it moves forward with a major expansion to serve a growing demographic of wealthy golf tourists.

See LAOLAO on Page 4

Korean-born trader joins delegate race

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



A Korean-born businessman is the third candidate to file a formal bid to become the Northern Marianas' first-ever congressional delegate. Chong M. Won, president of D'Won Company, submitted

his candidacy papers to the Commonwealth Election Commission last week. He will face local television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales and retired Judge Juan Lizama, along with at least four other candidates who have yet to file their documents, in the Nov. 4 election.

See KOREAN on Page 4

Grapevine is abuzz over alleged arrest

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan is buzzing with unconfirmed rumors that federal agents either arrested or questioned Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez while he was attending a conference in New York and that he has since seen an indictment on charges related to the misappropriation.

See GRAPEVINE on Page 4

Analysis: US now winning Iraq war

By ROBERT BURNS and ROBERT H. REID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

BAGHDAD (AP)—The United States is now winning the war that two years ago seemed lost. Limited, sometimes sharp fighting and periodic terrorist bombings in Iraq are likely to continue, possibly for

See ANALYSIS on Page 4



AP
A U.S. Army soldier leaps over an irrigation ditch near Qara Tappah, about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad in Iraq's volatile Diyalah province, Tuesday, July 22, 2008.



UKE JAM

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Nicholas Sablan, 16, a student at Mt. Carmel School, shows off his talent during the first Uke Jam in the Park at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday afternoon. AMP hosted the event, which is a jam session of ukulele players and aficionados.

'No VIP treatment for Miura in new jail' PAGE 2
Senate OKs bid process for CUC privatization. PAGE 3



"The 3000 Minute Plan is the best communications plan available. Adding Unlimited PTT just gives you the best way to communicate."

CONNECT
Saipan: 888-8888

Hans Mickelson

Local

'No VIP treatment for Miura in new jail'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura is being treated the same as all the other inmates at the new state-of-the-art prison in Susupe.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio said there is no VIP treatment as there is no difference between Miura and all the other inmates.

"I know that the attorneys have been asking for special meals for him to be served such as sushi and sashimi and all things of that nature. But we can-

not do that. Once you can do that for one individual or one inmate, we should do that for the rest," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

The DOC official said there is also no truth to the word on the street that the Japanese businessman has been mistreated or is not being treated fairly in jail.

Miura is being detained in a maximum security cell. In that housing unit, there is a total of 12 individual cells.

"He is in one of those individual cells. It's like a 7 by 9 feet size. It is fitted with a toilet and a sink. He is doing fine,"

Tenorio said.

He said Miura's hours to use the phone are extended up to 8pm pursuant to a court order as he needs to talk with some lawyers in the U.S. mainland.

Tenorio said when they transferred all the inmates, including Miura, to the new prison on July 10, they stopped all privileges (extension time for phone calls) for the first two days.

He said Miura's new cell is about the same as the old one except that it is much colder in the new facility.

"In the old one, there was a

window where you can look out. But this new one has no window; the cell is actually enclosed. It's just walls on all three sides," Tenorio said.

The commissioner said he believes Miura has no other special activities in jail other than taking fresh air.

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. Miura has been in jail since he was arrested at the Saipan airport last Feb. 22.

CHC sues to collect \$145,972 from estate of patient who died 8 yrs ago

The Department of Public Health has filed a lawsuit to collect \$145,972 in hospital billings from the estate of a person who died eight years ago.

DPH, through assistant attorney general James R. Stump, sued the estate and the person administering the estate for breach of contract.

DPH asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay the Commonwealth Health Center the principal amount of \$145,972 plus attorney's fees, court costs, interest, and collection costs.

Stump stated in the complaint that on July 21, 1998, the patient signed a promissory note

for all medical services provided by CHC in the amount of \$145,972.

In the promissory note, the patient agreed to make monthly payments of \$100.

In the promissory note, Stump said, the patient agreed that, should she breach the agreement, she would be liable for all attorney's fees and collection costs.

The patient died in 2000.

In September 2000, the government filed a claim against the patient's estate.

"Defendants breached promissory note on July 2, 2006, when they failed to make the required monthly payment," Stump said.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008 at 5pm at the Herman's Bakery Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of children with autism are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. (PR)

Live fire training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the northern island of Farallon de Mendenilla from July 28 through Aug. 1, between 9am and 7pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office advises the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to avoid the Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Any questions should be directed to the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16 and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Jury selection reset

This is to inform the public that the jury selection presently set for July 28, 2008 at 8:30am for Panel "BS" is vacated until further notice, according to a notice issued by Clerk of Court Bernadita A. Sablan. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health



ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Vendors on Saipan and Tinian for the purpose of providing WIC-approved food items to WIC participants. All interested vendors may pick up an application at the WIC main office located at Upper Navy Hill, building number N-25, starting July 28, 2008 through August 16, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.). Alternatively, applications may also be downloaded online by visiting the CNMI WIC website at www.cnmiwic.org.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2008.

The Vendor selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at www.cnmiwic.org. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa, at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabian@cnmiwic.org, or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department
of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program,
Director

SIZZLING DEALS

July 15 - July 31, 2008



CDMA Motorola w385
\$99.00*
Postpaid
\$145.00
Prepaid



CDMA Motorola w315 Blue
\$50.00*
Postpaid
\$75.00
Prepaid



CDMA LG 7000
\$50.00*
Postpaid
\$99.00
Prepaid



CDMA LG 4270
\$40.00*
Postpaid
\$85.00
Prepaid

SAIPAN CELL
COMMUNICATIONS
The Choice is Clear.

483-CARE WWW.SAIPANCELL.COM TYPHOON PROVEN

* Some conditions apply. 24 month agreement required. Must sign up a 500 minute rate plan or higher to avail the special prices. Valid until July 31st or while supplies last.

GUALO RAI • MITA TRAVEL, GARAPAN

Labor uncovers evidence of several problems with firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has found evidence of numerous problems with the businesses being run by a corporation.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody said several employees of Meros Corp. appear to be working only 16 hours per week, even though no reduction work hours has ever been approved by the Labor director.

Cody also noted other discrepancies with Meros Corp.'s reported Business Gross Revenue Tax and withholding tax documents.

With such findings, the hearing officer affirmed the Labor director's decision to deny Meros Corp.'s application to hire Macrino Q. Carreon as an aircon technician.

Cody granted Carreon's request for transfer relief and directed him to register with the Labor Division of Employment Services within seven days.

He recommended that the Labor director conduct an agency investigation into the conduct and work status of the remaining employees of Meros Corp., who purportedly hold jobs as cook, waitress, and accounting technician.

Meros Corp. had filed a transfer application to employ Carreon as an "aircon technician" on Sept. 11, 2007. That same date, a conditional grant of transfer was approved at a salary of \$3.55 per hour.

On Feb. 25, 2008, the Labor director denied the application based on a finding that the company's financial assets did not support the hiring of Carreon.

Meros Corp. and Carreon appealed.

In his order, Cody said that, during 2007, the business of Meros Corp. consisted of a restaurant and an air conditioning service (Marmot Refrigeration Air Conditioning Service).

Meros employed four alien workers: an accounting technician, a cook, a waitress, and an air conditioning technician (Carreon).

The corporate secretary testified that the restaurant, known as "Rathkie Restaurant," was open in 2007 only on weekends due to very slow business; therefore, the cook and waitress worked only about 16 hours per week for many months.

The Secretary noted that he did not actually manage the business, but left most decisions to Carreon.

Carreon testified that he had been appointed by the president of Meros Corp., who resides in the Philippines, to distribute salaries to Meros workers.

Cody said this arrangement was not approved by the Labor director.

Cody said the employer produced bank statements of the corporation at the hearing. He said the bank statements contain monthly balances that are extremely low

Senate OKs bid process for CUC privatization

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

for the management of a business (less than \$200 monthly balance), except for a sudden infusion of cash in May 2008.

In May 2008, the available balance jumped from \$852 in April to \$7,902.

"The jump in bank assets within weeks of the scheduled hearing is suspect, particularly given the average balance of the bank assets within the past year," Cody noted.

He said a computation of the income and expenses of Meros Corp. for the first quarter of 2008 reveals that expenses actually exceeded the income of the company. Cody said quarterly operating expenses plus salaries totaled \$8,712 with quarterly income of \$7,863.

The employer's quarterly tax return lists all three Meros workers making exactly \$1,704 each for the first quarter of 2008, even though two workers do not work full-time as reported.

Cody said the records appear to be false, given the testimony that the restaurant is closed most of each week. The air-conditioning repair business does not generate sufficient income alone to support full-time wages for the entire Meros staff, the hearing officer added.

Candidates and voters may find a shorter wait for election results if a Senate-passed measure becomes law.

The Senate on Friday approved legislation allowing the Commonwealth Election Commission to open and count absentee ballots in its possession on election day.

The bill would also provide for a preliminary count of ballots for contests decided by voters in one senatorial district. Under the bill, the "local ballots" on Rota or Tinian may be hand-counted before being shipped to Saipan for any final counting.

In the present system, all ballots are counted electronically on Saipan.

Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, sponsor of the bill, said the bill is designed to get the election results, especially on Tinian and Rota, as

to the House of Representatives for approval of a minor amendment made by the Senate.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes said he hopes the bill's passage will disprove a suggestion from certain sectors that the upper chamber—for some political reason—is deliberately ignoring all bills introduced by

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider.

The passage of the bill comes amid CUC's reported plan to seek proposals from private companies interested in running the main power plant on Saipan and selling energy back to the utility for distribution to the community. CUC executive director Antonio Muna recently

told lawmakers that CUC plans to get the "request for proposals" within the next six months.

Under the pending privatization bill, however, CUC will be required to sell its power system for at least \$250 million through a bid process.

Proponents of the bill want CUC to do away with the RFP process, which they say, "injects into the process an unacceptable element of subjectivity and as a result participants in the process lack confidence in it and tend to file protests against the content of the requests or the procedures for evaluating them."

The bill would also restore the CUC board of directors.



SAIPAN.JP and SAIPAN.CN
Web Addresses for Sale
bill.bezzant@saipan.com

Bill seeks faster count during polls

early as possible. "In previous elections, we had to wait until the morning after the election to find out the results," he said.

The bill also proposes changes to absentee voting procedures. Under the bill, CNMI voters will no longer have to proffer an excuse to vote by absentee ballot. The bill states the excuse requirement is "outdated and an unnecessary barrier to the exercise of the franchise."

The measure further proposes to allow absentee ballots in the possession in the Election Commission to be counted on election day. Other absentee ballots postmarked by the date of election and received by the Election Commission within 14 days of the election will still be counted 14 days after the election.

The bill is headed to the House of Representatives for approval. (Agnes E. Donato)

Enroll now! Let's Learn Japanese

+a

BEST APPROACH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

New Beginner class start: July 31, 2008
Start time: 7:45pm, Mon & Thu class

Calligraphy class start: August 2, 2008
Start time: 3:00pm, Every Sat class.

Map of Saipan showing locations: CHC HOSPITAL, MIHA HOUSING AREA, TO CAPITOL HILL, MIDDLE ROAD GARAPAN, MOVIE STATION 2, TO GUALO RAI, CENTURY HOTEL, MIGGY'S REST., 2FT Tun Kiku Bldg., Middle Road, Garapan Tel: 234-1110, BEST APPROACH LANGUAGE SCHOOL, HAPPY MARKET, JAGABAN ICE WATER.

HARDT EYE CLINIC

Serving you for over 15 years

DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

SERVICES OFFERED:

- New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
- Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
- Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
- Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.

Walk-ins are Welcome!

We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare, Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)

We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express

Please call us now at 235-2030

We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.

Sand Castle
DINNER THEATER
A BALOYGA ENTERPRISE
SAIPAN

Featuring...
The Magic of
Chris & Ryan

SUMMER SPECIAL

\$30 per adult / \$10 per child

Show Only

Drinks not included. Child age is 2-11 years old.
Limited Seating Available. Strictly No Seat Requests.
This Promotion is valid for the month of July 2008 only. For CNMI Residents Only. Local ID Required.

SHOW TIME:
1st Show: 7:00pm
2nd Show: 8:45pm

*Call TODAY at 233-8585
to book your reservations.*

LAOLAO

From Page 1

"We are really building, actually building and we're seeing a lot of progress," said Yun Kim, president of the resort, in an interview Saturday. "It's really happening."

A yellow crane now towers over the resort and the air away from its sprawling golf course is buzzing with the sound of drills, welding and hammering.

The resort broke ground earlier this year on a \$6.8 million golf hotel—or "Golftel," a complex with condominiums.

um-style apartments for golf tourists—and has since completed laying its foundation while the project's managers push ahead with expanding the nearby clubhouse and restaurant. In addition, the resort has plans for a tea-house where golfer can get some late afternoon refreshments when coming off the course and villas to cater to the resort's high-end clientele, according to construction officials.

"This is a new market for this island, this high-end golf tourism market," Kim said. "We have a real commitment to the CNMI and we have invested a lot of money here."

LaoLao Bay's expansion will give

a major boost to its parent company, Asiana Airlines, which operates direct service between Korea—a key source of the resort's patrons—and Saipan. Marketing Saipan as a golf destination, Kim said, ensures Asiana's route will have a future.

"Because of this investment, we can operate our flights, our route, sustainably," Kim said.

This week, the Commonwealth Development Authority will decide whether to grant the resort \$27.7 million worth of tax relief and abatement measures in order to aid its expansion. The pending decision comes as LaoLao Bay is poised to sell its one-thousandth

membership—each one carrying a price tag of thousands of dollars—and as Asiana is reportedly preparing to increase air services to the CNMI.

The project, still on schedule and within its budget, faces some potential hurdles, Kim noted, such as increased labor costs and concerns over how the pending federal takeover of immigration rules will impact tourism. Russian and Chinese tourists are significant demographics for the resort, Kim noted, and strict federal rules for them when traveling to the CNMI could prove problematic.

"We already have a lot of Chinese and Russian tourists using our flights

and our facilities," Kim said. "We should protect that demand for the resort and for the island."

Nevertheless, the CNMI stands to see a major economic boost once the resort's construction project is complete and already some new stores and entertainment spots appear ready to open near it to capitalize on the influx of visitors.

According to a report issued by the resort, the CNMI stands to see an estimated \$387 million worth of direct and indirect economic benefits from the resort's business.

"The CNMI will get a world-class golf course and hotel when this is finished," Kim said. "It will be outstanding."

ANALYSIS

From Page 1

years. But the Iraqi government and the U.S. now are able to shift focus from mainly combat to mainly building the fragile beginnings of peace - a transition that many found almost unthinkable as recently as one year ago.

Despite the occasional bursts of violence, Iraq has reached the point where the insurgents, who once controlled whole cities, no longer have the clout to threaten the viability of the central government.

That does not mean the war has ended or that U.S. troops have no role in Iraq. It means the combat phase finally is ending, years past the time when President Bush optimistically declared it had. The new phase focuses on training the Iraqi army and police, restraining the flow of illicit weaponry from Iran, supporting closer links between Baghdad and local governments, pushing the integration of former insurgents into legitimate government jobs and assisting in rebuilding the economy.

Scattered battles go on, especially against al-Qaida holdouts north of Baghdad. But organized resistance, with the steady drumbeat of bombings, kidnappings, assassinations and ambushes that once rocked the capital daily, has all but ceased.

This amounts to more than a lull in the violence. It reflects a fundamental shift in the outlook for the Sunni minority, which held power under Saddam Hussein. They launched the insurgency five years ago. They now are either sidelined or have switched sides to cooperate with the Americans in return for money and political support.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told The Associated Press this past week there are early indications that senior leaders of al-Qaida may be considering shifting their main focus from Iraq to the war in Afghanistan.

Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, told the AP on Thursday that the insurgency as a whole has withered to the point where it is no longer a threat to Iraq's future.

"Very clearly, the insurgency is in no position to overthrow the government or, really, even to challenge it," Crocker said. "It's actually almost in no position to try to confront it. By and large, what's left of the insurgency is just trying to hang on."

Shiite militias, notably the Mahdi Army of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, have lost their power bases in Baghdad, Basra and other major cities.

An important step was the routing of Shiite extremists in the Sadr City slums of eastern Baghdad this spring - now a quiet though not fully secure district.

Al-Sadr and top lieutenants are now in Iran. Still talking of a comeback, they are facing major obstacles, including a loss of support among a Shi'ite population weary of war and no longer as terrified of Sunni extremists as they were two years ago.

Despite the favorable signs, U.S. commanders are leery of proclaiming victory or promising that the calm will last.

The premature declaration by the Bush administration of "Mission Accomplished" in May 2003 convinced commanders that the best public relations strategy is to promise little, and couple all good news with the warning that "security is fragile" and that the improvements, while encouraging, are "not irreversible."

Iraq still faces a mountain of problems: sectarian rivalries, power struggles within the Sunni and Shi'ite communities, Kurdish-Arab tensions, corruption. Any one of those could rekindle widespread fighting.

But the underlying dynamics in Iraqi society that blew up the U.S. military's hopes for an early exit, shortly after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003, have changed in important ways in recent months.

Systematic sectarian killings have all but ended in the capital, in large part because of tight security and a strategy of walling off neighborhoods purged of minorities in 2006.

That has helped establish a sense of normalcy in the streets of the capital. People are expressing a new confidence in their own security forces, which in turn are exhibiting a newfound assertiveness with the insurgency largely in retreat.

Statistics show violence at a four-year low. The monthly American death toll appears to be at its lowest of the war - four killed in action so far this month as of Friday, compared with 66 in July a year ago. From a daily average of 160 insurgent attacks in July 2007, the average has plummeted to about two dozen a day this month. On Wednesday the nationwide total was 13.

Beyond that, there is something in the air in Iraq this summer.

In Baghdad, parks are filled every weekend with families playing and picnicking with their children. That was unthinkable only a year ago, when the first, barely visible signs of a turnaround emerged.

Now a moment has arrived for the Iraqis to try to take those positive threads and weave them into a lasting stability.

The questions facing both Americans and Iraqis are: What kinds of help will the country need from the U.S. military, and for how long? The questions will take on greater importance as the U.S. presidential election nears, with one

candidate pledging a troop withdrawal and the other insisting on staying.

Iraqi authorities have grown dependent on the U.S. military after more than five years of war. While they are aiming for full sovereignty with no foreign troops on their soil, they do not want to rush. In a similar sense, the Americans fear that after losing more than 4,100 troops, the sacrifice could be squandered.

U.S. commanders say a substantial American military presence will be needed beyond 2009. But judging from the security gains that have been sustained over the first half of this year - as the Pentagon withdrew five Army brigades sent as reinforcements in 2007 - the remaining troops could be used as peacekeepers more than combatants.

As a measure of the transitioning U.S. role, Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond says that when he took command of American forces in the Baghdad area about seven months ago he was spending 80 percent of his time working on combat-related matters and about 20 percent on what the military calls "non-kinetic" issues, such as supporting the development of Iraqi government institutions and humanitarian aid.

Now Hammond estimates those percentages have been almost reversed. For several hours one recent day, for example, Hammond consulted on water projects with a Sunni sheik in the Radwaniyah area of southwest Baghdad, then spent time with an Iraqi physician/entrepreneur in the Dora district of southern Baghdad - an area, now calm, that in early 2007 was one of the capital's most violent zones.

"We're getting close to something that looks like an end to mass violence in Iraq," says Stephen Biddle, an analyst at the Council of Foreign Relations who has advised Petraeus on war strategy. Biddle is not ready to say it's over, but he sees the U.S. mission shifting from fighting the insurgents to keeping the peace.

Although Sunni and Shi'ite extremists are still around, they have surrendered the initiative and have lost the support of many ordinary Iraqis. That can be traced to an altered U.S. approach to countering the insurgency - a Petraeus-driven move to take more U.S. troops off their big bases and put them in Baghdad neighborhoods where they mixed with ordinary Iraqis and built a new level of trust.

Army Col. Tom James, a brigade commander who is on his third combat tour in Iraq, explains the new calm this way:

"We've put out the forest fire. Now we're dealing with pop-up fires."

It's not the end of fighting. It looks like the beginning of a perilous peace.

Maj. Gen. Ali Hadi Hussein al-Yaseri, the chief of patrol police in the

capital, sees the changes.

"Even eight months ago, Baghdad was not today's Baghdad," he says.

Editor's Note: Robert Burns is AP's chief military reporter; and Robert Reid is AP's chief of bureau in Baghdad. Reid has covered the war from his

post in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in March 2003. Burns, based in Washington, has made 21 reporting trips to Iraq; on his latest during July, Burns spent nearly three weeks in central and northern Iraq, observing military operations and interviewing both U.S. and Iraqi officers.

is?" Give me a chance. Get to know me. I'm not a political person. Politicians tell you what you want to hear and do what they want to do. If you want that kind of leader, maybe I'm not the candidate for you. But if you want someone who will work for you, I am your candidate," he said.

Born in South Korea, Won moved with his family to the United States when he was six years old. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Devry Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio. In 1997, he moved to Saipan. He worked in the private sector for a year before joining the CNMI Department of Public Safety in 1998. After four years as a police officer, he started his own business.

D'Won Company is a real estate and insurance firm, and it also provides document handling service.

Won is married to Dora Palacios Won. They have four children.

KOREAN

From Page 1

In an interview Friday, Won said he is ready for what is expected to be a tough, crowded battle for the historic position. His willingness to work hard, he added, will make up for his lack of political experience and, ultimately, set him apart from his rivals.

"Hard work—that's what I have to offer," said the 37-year-old businessman. "I know I don't have any experience in politics. But I don't think we need that kind of experience right now. All we need is someone who will work hard and do whatever is best for the Commonwealth."

Won also called on the voters to look past his racial background and let him prove what he can do.

"A lot of people probably will say, 'Who does this Korean guy think he

GRAPEVINE

From Page 1

tion of federal funds during his tenure as director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Neither Villagomez, nor his staff, nor federal officials could be reached for comment on the rumors Sunday. Phone calls made to Villagomez's house were not answered. The local police could not confirm the report.

Some local bloggers, however, posted articles—with at least one citing a "reliable source"—saying the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Villagomez. Meanwhile, the *Saipan Tribune* has received scores of e-mails and phone calls, including two from off-island, often from sources declining to be identified, reporting that the arrest or questioning occurred.

On a related note, rumors were also rife about six persons, includ-

ing some government officials and employees, about to be indicted in federal court, also on issues related to CUC procurement.

The rumors come after the FBI last week subpoenaed a host of CUC officials to testify as part of a federal probe. The FBI is currently examining a 2006 contract CUC inked with Commonwealth Industrial Supply Company Inc. (CISCO), paying it to fix six engines at a local power plant. CUC paid CISCO \$885,000 in federal funds for the project after failing to solicit other bids and the company never completed the work.

Villagomez was in Buffalo, New York, last week attending the annual conference of National Lieutenant Governors Association. Despite several reports of his arrest and indictment, other sources said he has already returned to Saipan and was seen at St. Jude's Church during Sunday Mass in Koblerville.



MAKE A WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, GU 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

hope strength joy!
Saipan Tribune

Terminated DLNR staff allegedly refused to surrender govt items

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has sued a terminated employee who allegedly refused to surrender several items belonging to the department.

DLNR, through assistant attorney general Meaghan Has-

sel Shearer, sued former trades technician II Peter M. Deleon Guerrero for conversion of government property.

DLNR asked the Superior Court to order Deleon Guerrero to pay damages.

Shearer said the DLNR had supplied Deleon Guerrero with equipment too carry out the duties of his job. These included a

Sony VGN-023 Intel Centurion laptop computer; accessories for the laptop including a mouse, flash driver, and external drive; a Canon digital camera; a compact flash driver for the camera; accessories including a charger for a Motorola i860 cell phone; and office and car keys for two government vehicles.

On Aug. 31, 2006, DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz told Deleon Guerrero in a letter that he is being let go for being "absent without leave" for a total of 272 work hours. Because of Deleon Guerrero's absence, DLNR had no choice but "to consider that you have abandoned your work," Dela Cruz said.

Shearer said DLNR made several attempts to serve Deleon Guerrero with this notice, but their attempts were unsuccessful.

On Feb. 28, 2007, Dela Cruz terminated Deleon Guerrero's employment effective Jan. 2, 2007.

Shearer said that, on Feb. 28, 2007, Bertha M. Palacios and Diana Q. Gabaldon from DLNR attempted to serve Deleon Guerrero with his termination letter, but he refused to sign it, stating that the letter was "B.S."

The government lawyer said DLNR then contacted Deleon Guerrero concerning his duty to return the government property to DLNR.

On Nov. 20, 2007, DLNR sent via registered certified mail a letter to the defendant demanding the return of the

government property.

Five days later, Jason Ada of DLNR hand-delivered the same letter to Deleon Guerrero who refused to accept the letter.

Shearer said that on Feb. 15, 2008, the Office of the Attorney General sent the defendant a letter via certified mail stating that upon receiving the letter, he had 15 days in which to contact the AGO about returning the items.

This letter, Shearer said, went unclaimed and was returned to the AGO.

The lawyer said Deleon Guerrero has made no attempts to return or contact DLNR and AGO concerning the government property that was loaned to him.

"At no point was Deleon Guerrero led to believe that the government property was purchased with the intention that it belong to him for his personal

use," Shearer said.

The lawyer said Deleon Guerrero's continued control over the items amounts to a conversion of government property.



LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

As rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant 1, the load shedding schedule through August 1, 2008, will be as follows:

8am - 10am Feeder-2: Second Partial

Fishing Base south to San Jose Intersection

10am - 12pm Kiya-4: Second Partial

Susupe, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village

12pm - 2pm Feeder-4: Second Partial

Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago

2pm - 4pm Feeder-1: Second & Third Partial

99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill, Annaks Condominiums

4pm - 6pm Feeder-7: Entire Grid

Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

6pm - 8pm Kiya-1: First Partial

Kannat Tabla, Botanical Garden, San Vicente, Dandan, Airport Road, Isley Field, Lower Dandan

8pm - 10pm Kiya-2: Second Partial

Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

The first partial in each of the respective feeder/kiya could be included to the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. Water and wastewater services will also be affected as a result of the power outages. This schedule may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. (CUC)



UKE JAM

Felix, Andrew, Thomas and Patrick show off their talent during the first Uke Jam in the Park at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday afternoon. AMP hosted the event, which is a jam session of ukulele players and aficionados.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



General Accountant

NEEDED

QUALIFICATIONS

2 years work experience, knowledgeable in Quickbooks, can analyze, examine accounting records and financial statements. Prepare and compute taxes, receivables, payables, and payroll.

Passenger Service Representative

NEEDED

QUALIFICATIONS

2 years work experience in customer service. Will assist arriving and departing flights for the airline. Airline certification required. Knowledge in Japanese and others are preferred.

IF INTERESTED Please call 2354000



Coordinator – Marketing/Communications/Public Relations

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate marketing communications programs, promotions, marketing events, advertising campaigns and publicity defined by product management
- Along with Marketing Manager, serve as company's interface with its advertising media ensuring that expenditures are consistent with company business and profitability priorities and that quality results are achieved
- Assist Product Managers in training employees on company products and services
- Assist with product management of the company's prepaid long distance and landline business
- Draft and review corporate communication for Marketing Manager and distribute to media
- Coordinate and oversee PTI's donation programs consistent with approved external affairs strategies and operational plans
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing (or related field) or equivalent experience. Four years of progressive experience in marketing, communications or public relations. May substitute education with an equivalent combination of related work experience
- Working knowledge in the design and coordination of marketing, communications and public relations activities. Demonstrated successful experience in drafting press releases and other creative materials, making presentations and negotiating with media. Experience overseeing the design, editing and production of print materials and publications.
- Advanced computer literacy in word processing and spreadsheet programs. Strong oral and written communication skills. Strong organizational and event management skills.
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects at the same time. Ability to work under deadline pressure and extra hours if needed on assignment.

Human Resource Office
PTI
P. O. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

PTI is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by
PTI Human Resources on or before August 4, 2008.

Got Cataracts? "Find Out More"

at Marianas Eye Institute

Join hundreds of others in the region who travel to Marianas Eye Institute to have their cataract care with Dr. David Khorram, listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists." Dr. Khorram uses the Advanced Medical Optics Sovereign Phacoemulsification with Whitestar cataract removal system.

Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant

Mark Robertson, OD

Magna Cum Laude

Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation

Comprehensive Medical Eye Care

Vision Care

David Khorram, MD

America's Top Ophthalmologists

Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease

Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant

Complex Eye Disease



"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com

One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox

We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare,
Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos', and more.

If you can't pay for your care,
the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

LEGAL NOTICE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	Civil Action No. H-04-3359
ROYAL DUTCH PETROLEUM COMPANY and THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, P.L.C.)	
Defendants.)	

If You Purchased Shares of Royal Dutch Petroleum Company or The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, p.l.c., Between April 8, 1999 and March 17, 2004, inclusive, you could be eligible for compensation from the settlement of an enforcement action by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission with those entities.

A settlement has been reached in an enforcement action brought by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission against Royal Dutch Petroleum Company ("Royal Dutch") and The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, p.l.c. ("Shell Transport" and, collectively, "Royal Dutch Shell"). If you purchased Royal Dutch or Shell Transport Ordinary Shares, American Depository Receipts or American Depository Shares (the "Royal Dutch Shell Securities") during the period from April 8, 1999 through March 17, 2004, you may qualify to receive payment from the approximately \$120 million settlement fund. You will be required to submit a proof of claim to establish your eligibility for payment.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas has authorized this notice.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

You are a Potentially Eligible Claimant if you purchased Royal Dutch Shell Securities during the period from April 8, 1999 through March 17, 2004. You are a Potentially Eligible Claimant only if you bought Royal Dutch Shell Securities individually, not indirectly through a pooled vehicle such as a mutual fund. Certain of Royal Dutch Shell's officers, directors and employees and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate in the fund.

Contact your broker to see if you purchased Royal Dutch Shell Securities during the required time period. If you are not sure whether you are potentially eligible to participate in the recovery fund, you can get more information, including a detailed notice of the terms of the distribution, at www.ShellSECSettlement.com or by calling toll-free 1-866-446-3412.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The SEC enforcement action alleged that Royal Dutch Shell misled investors by publicly reporting certain false and misleading information about its proved oil reserves.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Under the terms of the Settlement, a fund of approximately \$120,000,000 has been created, from which payments will be made to eligible claimants who submit a valid proof of claim.

Your recovery from the fund, if any, will depend on the number and dollar amount of valid claim forms submitted, how many shares of Royal Dutch Shell Securities you bought, and when you bought and sold them. All of the \$120,000,000 plus accrued interest, less administrative fees and taxes, will be distributed.

HOW DO YOU REQUEST A PAYMENT?

A detailed notice and claim form package contains everything you need. Just call the toll-free number or visit www.ShellSECSettlement.com. To qualify for a payment, you must submit claim form that is **postmarked no later than November 18, 2008**.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

IN RE ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL TRANSPORT SECURITIES LITIGATION)	Civil Action No. 04-374 (JAP) (Consolidated Cases)
---	---	---

COURT ORDERED LEGAL NOTICE

IF, FROM APRIL 8, 1999 THROUGH MARCH 18, 2004, INCLUSIVE (THE "CLASS PERIOD"), YOU PURCHASED:

- STOCK OR STOCK EQUIVALENTS (INCLUDING AMERICAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS) ISSUED BY THE ROYAL DUTCH PETROLEUM COMPANY OR THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, P.L.C. (COLLECTIVELY, "SHELL")
- SHELL CALL OPTIONS (OR LIKE INSTRUMENTS)
- SHELL PUT OPTIONS (OR LIKE INSTRUMENTS)

ON A UNITED STATES EXCHANGE OR MARKET

AND/OR

- STOCK OR STOCK EQUIVALENTS ISSUED BY SHELL
- SHELL CALL OPTIONS (OR LIKE INSTRUMENTS)
- SHELL PUT OPTIONS (OR LIKE INSTRUMENTS)

ON ONE OR MORE EXCHANGES OR MARKETS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES AND, AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE, WERE RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS OF, OR WERE INCORPORATED IN OR CREATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES (INCLUDING ITS STATES, TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS)

YOU MAY BE A CLASS MEMBER IN THIS ACTION AND YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS ACTION.

IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO WHICH YOU WOULD BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE MONETARY RELIEF.

If you believe that you are eligible to participate in the class action settlement described in this Court-Ordered Legal Notice, but did not receive in the mail a detailed notice describing the settlement, please visit www.ShellClassActionSettlement.com, where you can obtain a copy of the notice and the claim form, or contact the Court-approved Administrator (as set out below) to request a copy of the notice and claim form.

If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement Agreement, you must request exclusion from the Class. Your request to exclude yourself must be postmarked or delivered no later than September 11, 2008. All Class Members who do not timely and validly request exclusion from the Class will be bound by any judgment entered in the class action.

SUMMARY

A settlement has been reached in a securities fraud class action arising from Shell's recategorization of certain of its oil and gas reserves in 2004 (the "Settlement Agreement"). The relief that will be provided to Class Members if the Settlement Agreement is approved is set out below. If the Settlement Agreement is approved and you do not exclude yourself from the Class, you will release all claims that have been raised or that could have been raised in the class action. The release will apply to all defendants in the class action (Shell and its independent auditors), as well as all persons and entities who are included in the term "Releasees," as that term is defined in the Settlement Agreement. If the Settlement Agreement is approved, the class action will be dismissed with prejudice. As set out below, you may request exclusion from the Class that has been certified in connection with the Settlement Agreement, in which case you will not receive settlement relief and will not be bound by any of the Settlement Agreement's terms (including its release). If you wish to exclude yourself from the Class, you must do so as described below. Your request must be postmarked or delivered no later than September 11, 2008.

WHO ARE THE CLASS MEMBERS IN THIS CLASS ACTION?

The Class Members covered by the Settlement Agreement are those persons and entities described above. If you are within the description above and do not wish to participate in the settlement, your request for exclusion from the Class must be postmarked or delivered no later than September 11, 2008.

If you are not sure whether you are included in the Class, you can get more information, including a detailed notice describing the terms of the Settlement Agreement, at www.ShellClassActionSettlement.com, or by calling 1-866-684-4203 or writing to Shell Class Action Administrator, P.O. Box 6975, Syracuse, NY, 13217-6975. You can also receive further information about the class action and notice by writing or calling the counsel who has been appointed by the Court to be Class Counsel: Stanley D. Bernstein, Esq. or Jeffrey M. Haber, Esq., Bernstein Liebhard & Lifshitz, LLP, 10 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, (212) 779-1414. Class Counsel's website is www.bernlieb.com.

WHAT IS THIS CLASS ACTION ABOUT?

Beginning on January 9, 2004, Shell issued several announcements addressing the recategorization of certain of its oil and gas reserves. A number of proposed class actions (consolidated by the Court into this action) were filed against Shell, certain of its current and former officers and directors, and its independent auditors alleging that purchasers of Shell securities during the period alleged in the complaints experienced a price decline in their securities as a consequence of such recategorization.

Shell denies that it is liable to Class Members and denies that Class Members have suffered any damages as a result of its conduct. The Court has not reached – and will not reach – any decision on the merits of the claims that have been brought in this class action in connection with its consideration of the Settlement Agreement. The parties disagree on both liability and damages and disagree on the average amount of damages per share that would be recoverable if the Class were to prevail on each of its claims.

WHAT RELIEF DOES THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PROVIDE?

If the Court approves the Settlement Agreement, Shell will provide the following:

- \$79,900,000 plus interest running from April 1, 2008, which amount will be distributed to Class Members as set out in the settlement distribution plan prepared by Class Counsel;
- an additional \$6,658,000 plus interest running from April 1, 2008, which amount will also be distributed to Class Members as set out in the settlement distribution plan;
- \$2,950,000, which amount will be divided equally among all Class Members who submit a valid claim for settlement relief;
- the payment of all administrative costs associated with implementing the Settlement Agreement;
- subject to Court approval, the payment by Shell to Class Counsel of attorneys' fees not to exceed \$30,000,000 and expenses not to exceed \$3,000,000 and
- subject to Court approval, the payment by Shell to Lead Plaintiffs, of Lead Plaintiffs' reasonable expenses up to \$150,000.

The Settlement Agreement also provides that, under certain defined circumstances, Shell will provide additional settlement relief to Class Members as follows:

- If, within three years following May 13, 2008, Shell settles litigation with a purchaser who requests exclusion from – i.e., opts out of – the Settlement Agreement by paying that purchaser more than what he, she or it would have received under the Settlement Agreement, Shell will pay additional proportional settlement relief to Class Members (up to a maximum aggregate amount of \$50,000,000);
- If, within three years following May 13, 2008, Shell agrees to pay additional settlement relief to purchasers covered by the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement (which is discussed below), and the Court finds that an additional payment to Class Members is required to avoid a disproportionate receipt of settlement relief by purchasers covered by the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement, Shell will provide an additional amount of settlement relief to Class Members that is proportionate to the amount provided under the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement; and
- If it is determined based upon the claims submitted by Class Members that Class Members who were residents or citizens of, or were incorporated in or created under the laws of, the United States (or its states, territories or possessions) purchased more than 3% of the Shell securities that were purchased outside of the United States during the Class Period and the Court finds that an additional payment to Class Members is required to avoid a disproportionate receipt of settlement relief by purchasers under the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement, Shell will provide additional settlement relief (up to \$10,500,000) to Class Members.

The Settlement Agreement contains the details of the proposed settlement, including the terms of the release that the Class will be bound by if the Settlement Agreement is approved by the Court. You should review the language of the release, which is set out in the Settlement Agreement and is also available as an Appendix to the detailed notice. A copy of the Settlement Agreement and the detailed notice can be obtained at the Court-approved Administrator's website, www.ShellClassActionSettlement.com, by calling 1-866-686-4203, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT, by writing to Shell Class Action Administrator, P.O. Box 6975, Syracuse, NY, 13217-6975, or by sending an e-mail to info@ShellClassActionSettlement.com. A copy of the notice is also available at Class Counsel's website (www.bernlieb.com) and at Shell's website (www.shell.com).

WHO IS PAYING THE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES THAT ARE BEING SOUGHT BY CLASS COUNSEL AND LEAD PLAINTIFFS?

You will not be responsible for any of the fees or expenses being sought by Class Counsel or Lead Plaintiffs in this class action.

Class Counsel will file an application with the Court for an award of attorneys' fees of no more than \$30,000,000 and an award of expenses of no more than \$3,000,000. Shell has agreed that it will not oppose this application for attorneys' fees and expenses, and that it will pay fees and expenses up to these amounts to Class Counsel if the Court approves Class Counsel's application.

Shell has also agreed not to object to an application by Lead Plaintiffs for reimbursement of up to \$150,000 for Lead Plaintiffs' reasonable costs and expenses directly relating to their representation of the Class. Subject to the Court's approval of such an application, Shell will pay or cause to be paid up to that amount to Lead Plaintiffs.

Shell will pay Class Counsel's fees and expenses and the Lead Plaintiffs' expenses in addition to the settlement relief that Shell has agreed to pay. Thus, *the award of attorneys' fees and expenses awarded to Class Counsel and the reimbursement of Lead Plaintiffs' expenses will not reduce the amount of settlement relief available to Class Members.*

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL EFFECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT?

If the Court approves the Settlement Agreement, Lead Plaintiffs and Shell will seek the entry of a Judgment and an Order Approving Settlement that, among other things, will:

- find that the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate;
- finally certify the Class for settlement purposes;
- dismiss the class action with prejudice as to all defendants, meaning that no Class Member – including you (unless you timely exclude yourself) – will be able to bring another lawsuit or proceeding against any of the persons or entities that are released under the Settlement Agreement based upon the claims that have been raised or that could have been raised in the class action, regardless of whether or not you actually file a claim for settlement relief;
- incorporate the release that is found in the Settlement Agreement as part of the Order Approving Settlement;
- permanently bar Class Members from filing or participating in any lawsuit or other legal action arising from or relating to any and all claims that have been raised or that could have been raised in this class action;
- enter bar orders that will:
 - prevent any person or entity from commencing, prosecuting or asserting any claim (including any claim for indemnification or contribution) against any person or entity released under the Settlement Agreement where the alleged injury to the barred person or entity is based upon that person's or entity's alleged liability to the Class or a Class Member, and
 - prevent any person or entity released under the Settlement Agreement from commencing, prosecuting or asserting any claim (including any claim for indemnification or contribution) against any person or entity where the alleged injury is based upon the alleged liability to the Class or a Class Member;
- award attorneys' fees and expenses to Class Counsel and approve reimbursement of expenses to Lead Plaintiffs; and
- retain jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration, enforcement and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement.

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT?

If the Settlement Agreement is approved by the Court and you are a Class Member, you must submit a valid and timely claim form in order to receive settlement relief. You can obtain a claim form by visiting the website of the Court-approved Administrator at www.ShellClassActionSettlement.com, by calling 1-866-686-4203, or by writing to Shell Class Action Administrator, P.O. Box 6975, Syracuse, NY 13217-6975. The claim form is also included as an appendix to the notice. As set out above, you will be able to obtain a copy of the notice from the Administrator, or from the websites of Class Counsel (www.bernlieb.com) or Shell (www.shell.com). Read the instructions carefully, fill out the form and sign it, and send it (along with all of the documents that are requested in the form) to: Royal Dutch Shell Settlement Funds, P.O. Box 6978, Syracuse, NY, 13217-6978. The claim form must be received by the Administrator by no later than November 18, 2008.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

If you are a Class Member, you may either (i) remain in the Class (and receive settlement relief if the Court approves the Settlement Agreement) or (ii) request exclusion from the Class (in which case you will not receive relief if the Settlement Agreement is approved). If you decide to remain in the Class (and thus do not request exclusion), you also may submit to the Court an objection to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

If you want to participate in the Settlement Agreement, but you object to any term of the Settlement Agreement, you may submit a written objection to the Court. All objections must be filed with the Court and served on Class Counsel and counsel for Shell by no later than September 11, 2008. The detailed notice provides more information (at Question 25) about how to object.

If you want to exclude yourself from the Settlement Agreement, you must submit a written request to the Clerk of the Court (at the address that is in the detailed Notice). Your request must be *postmarked or delivered no later than September 11, 2008*. The detailed notice provides more information (at Question 27) about how to exclude yourself.

WILL THE COURT HOLD A HEARING REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

The Court will hold a hearing in this class action on September 26, 2008 at 11:00 am, in Courtroom No. 1, in the Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse, 402 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608 to consider, among other things, whether to approve the Settlement Agreement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve the proposed distribution plan, whether (and in what amount) to grant Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and expenses and whether (and in what amount) to grant Lead Plaintiffs' request for reimbursement of reasonable expenses. The Court will also consider any objections that have been made by Class Members. If the Court finds the Settlement Agreement to be fair, reasonable and adequate, it will enter an Order Approving Settlement and a Judgment.

You may choose to attend the hearing, either in person or through an attorney hired at your own expense, but attendance is not required. If you have made a written objection, either you (or your attorney) may appear at the hearing to present the objection, but you are not required to do so. If you choose to attend the hearing and intend to make a presentation to the Court, you – or your attorney – must file a notice of your intention to appear. *A notice of intention to appear must be received by the Court and the counsel identified in the detailed notice (at Question 25) by September 11, 2008.*

The Court may choose to change the date and/or time of the hearing without further notice of any kind. Thus, if you intend to attend the hearing, you should confirm that date and time by calling the Clerk of the Court at 609-989-2065, the Administrator at 1-866-686-4203 or Class Counsel at 212-779-1414.

ARE THERE OTHER SETTLEMENTS RELATING TO THE CLAIMS COVERED BY THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

Shell has entered into a settlement with respect to all asserted and unasserted claims of non-United States purchasers who purchased their Shell shares outside of the United States (the "Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement"). The Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement is pending the review of the Amsterdam Court of Appeals in The Netherlands, which will determine whether to declare that agreement binding on the purchasers covered by its terms. As approved by the United States Court in a January 14, 2008 order, in recognition that Class Counsel and Lead Plaintiffs vigorously pursued through litigation the claims of non-U.S. shareholders for more than three years and were a substantial factor in Shell's decision to enter into the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement and that the Non-U.S. Settlement will confer a significant benefit upon the shareholders covered by that agreement, Shell paid \$27,000,000 to Class Counsel. The detailed notice describes the settlement relief that is provided by the Non-U.S. Settlement Agreement (at Question 14). You may obtain a copy of the detailed notice as set out below.

In addition, in August 2004, Shell also entered into a consent decree with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to which it agreed, among other things, to pay (and has paid) \$120,000,000 to the Commission. The Commission staff has recommended to the Commission that this money (and the interest that accrued) be distributed to a worldwide class of Shell purchasers. Assuming you are eligible to receive money under the Commission's distribution plan, you will be able to receive money from the Commission pursuant to its distribution plan and procedures even if you determine not to participate in the Settlement Agreement.

HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Settlement Agreement sets out the settlement terms, including the terms of the release by which Class Members will be bound if the Settlement Agreement is approved. A copy of the distribution plan, the claim form and the release are attached as appendices to the notice (which is being mailed to the last-known addresses of Class Members). Both the Settlement Agreement and the notice (including the release, the distribution plan and the claim form) are available at the Court-approved Administrator's website, www.ShellClassActionSettlement.com, by calling 1-866-686-4203, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT, by writing to Shell Class Action Administrator, P.O. Box 6975, Syracuse, NY, 13217-6975, or by sending an e-mail to info@ShellClassActionSettlement.com. The notice and claim form are also available at Class Counsel's website (www.bernlieb.com) and at Shell's website (www.shell.com).

Additional information regarding this class action and the Settlement Agreement may also be obtained by contacting the Class Counsel:

Stanley D. Bernstein, Esq.
Jeffrey M. Haber, Esq.
Bernstein Liebhard & Lifshitz, LLP
10 East 40th Street
New York, NY 10016
Phone: (212) 779-1414
Fax: (212) 779-3218

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

Dated: June 17, 2008

**BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Flores completes Air Force training

On June 27, 2008, the U.S. Air Force 737th Training Group out of San Antonio, Texas held its graduation ceremony for over 700 new Airman recruits from across the United States.

Among the proud and newly sworn in Air Force recruit was Airman Basic Joseph S. Flores

Jr. of Saipan.

Flores is the eldest son of Joseph Arriola Flores and Larissa Sablan Flores of San Antonio, Saipan. Attending the graduation ceremony that day included relative Walter F. Villagomez of Washington, D.C.

As part of the 320th Training Squadron, Flores completed training as a Basic Airman and will continue his advanced military occupation as Security Force Personnel in the Air Force. The 737th Training group, consisting of eight squadrons, provides Air Force Basic Military Training for all enlisted personnel entering the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve recruits.

The Airman training covers the task and fundamentals of an Airman, which includes military discipline, drills and Air Force protocols. The training also instills in recruits core values, physical fitness and comprehensive range of classroom training related to the Air Force life and career.

"It has definitely been a challenging and exciting time for me as a U.S. Air Force recruit. The weeks of rigorous and demanding physical and mental training develops and transforms you to a level you never thought you had. The Air Force training helps you to understand the value of leadership, teamwork, attention to detail, and sustaining a positive attitude," said Flores. "I highly recommend the Air Force for anyone interested in serving our country with pride and excellence in training and service and also helping to protect our country's interest around the world."

"Also I would like to extend thanks to my entire family in Saipan, and most especially my parents, aunts, uncles and siblings for their untiring support while away from home for training," he added.

CNMI Resident Representative Pete Tenorio said he is "deeply proud of Airman Joseph Flores and honor him in his commitment and dedication to serve our country during time of need."

"I wish to congratulate Airman Flores in his completion of training and the beginning of a future career in our nation's Air Force. He joins the honored ranks of hundreds of our men and women from the Northern Marianas defending America's freedom, its democratic ideals, and our way of life," added Tenorio.

Upon graduation from Air Force Basic Military Training, Flores will continue his Advanced Technical Training at Lackland Air Base in San Antonio, Texas. Following advanced training at Lackland, Flores may likely be transferred to either Hawaii or Guam Air Force Base for his first duty assignment. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Airman Basic Joseph S. Flores Jr. of Saipan poses with Walter F. Villagomez after the graduation ceremony.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 28, 1999

Gov't owes CUC \$6.8M

In yet another sign of deepening financial woes of the CNMI, the government has yet to pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation some \$6.8 million in utility bills accumulated over the last six months. The public utility firm has been trying to collect the overdue charges by coming up with a payment schedule favorable to the Tenorio administration. The debt is the largest so far incurred by the government to CUC, according to officials.

PSS to restrict school bus use

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said yesterday the Public School System considers minimizing its school bus operations by limiting the transportation service only to students who live long distance away from their schools. Inos said limiting the school bus use may be a more acceptable alternative to a proposal seeking to charge students for the ride.

Elameto is new CUC chairperson

Rosario Elameto was elected yesterday as new chair of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors, replacing Juan S. Dela Cruz who resigned last month from the policy-making body. Elameto, who has represented Carolinian and Women to the board since 1994, won majority of the votes during a CUC board meeting yesterday which also saw the swearing-in of three new directors.

July 28, 2000

New FTZ bill faces risk of veto again

Legislation creating free trade zones in the Northern Marianas is again at risk of getting vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as lawmakers have insisted on some provisions that he has found problematic when the proposal was first enacted last year. The House of Representatives yesterday accepted Senate amendment to HB 12-11 allowing mayors of Rota and Tinian control over public lands that can be designated as special economic sites, citing the need to expedite passage of the much-delayed measure.

DOF: CNMI's fiscal house now in order

More than two years since the Tenorio Administration inherited an enormous budget deficit amidst dropping government revenues, the Commonwealth's finance managers revealed the CNMI's fiscal house has been fixed although earnings continue to be lower compared with the 1997 level. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the CNMI is starting to reap the fruits of measures installed since Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio assumed the gubernatorial seat in 1998, through stabilizing revenue collection and prompt release of tax refunds and rebates this year.

Report says Stayman committed perjury

Investigations by the United States House Committee on Resources have alleged that former Insular Affairs Director Allen P. Stayman has committed perjury in the testimony he submitted before the investigating panel last week, according to the Evans-Novak Political Report. Despite being found to have violated federal laws, Stayman, who announced his retirement shortly after the investigating team subpoenaed documents and hard drives, has been ironically awarded a top ambassadorship at the State Department.

July 28, 2003

Apologize, withdraw complaint

The Attorney General's Office must withdraw its complaint against the Marianas Public Lands Authority and issue a public apology by tomorrow over its recent decision to intervene for the Marianas Public Lands Trust in its pending lawsuit against the lands authority. This was the gist of a July 21, 2003, letter that MPLA's independent legal counsel Matthew Gregory wrote to the AGO on behalf of his client.

OTEC proponent not so sure now of Saipan

The Maryland-based proponent for a \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant on Saipan is now rethinking about its proposal following a recent visit to the island, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan disclosed in an interview that, in a recent onsite inspection, Sea Solar Power International president Robert J. Nicholson III found the island location to be different from what it had expected.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: July 10, 2008 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

JVA No. 08-019 Location Managing Engineer for Power Generation Power Generation, Saipan	JVA No. 08-020 Locations Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Civil Engineering) Power Generation, Saipan; Water and Wastewater, Saipan; and Power Division, Saipan
--	--

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Opening Date: July 25, 2008 JVA No. 08-022 Locations Assistant Engineer (Mechanical and/or Electrical) Power Generation, Saipan; Power Generation, Rota	Closing Date: Until Filled JVA No. 08-023 Location Information Technology Analyst/Engineer IT/EDP, Saipan
---	--

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

CDA

PUBLIC NOTICE
JULY 26, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes – July 15, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

IV. DIVISION/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division (CDC)
a. Status of Pending Items
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
a. Status of the DBD Funds
b. CPA Loan
3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
a. Administration's Report
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
a. Lualau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort
b. Compliance Issues

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Department of Commerce – Business Summit/Forum
2. Public Law 16-2

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ZHOU CHUN MEI) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL
vs.) ACTION
LI DAO QING) NO.08-0164
Respondent,) ORDER

UPON CONSIDERATION OF
THE MOTION by the Petitioner for
an Order of this Court requiring the
Respondent to answer or otherwise
plead herein and permitting services
to be made by publication under 7
CMC § 1301.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED,
that the Respondent shall be served
by publication in a newspaper of
general circulation in the Common-
wealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands. The Petitioner shall publish
the Summons, filed on April 1, 2008,
on at least two (2) dates.

Entered this 24th day of July,
2008.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Associate Judge



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



**NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL
LABOR CASES**

July 21, 2008, first notice July 28, 2006, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES:

Each of the labor cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior served personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Case No.	Complainant	Respondent(s)	Case No.	Complainant	Respondent(s)	Case No.	Complainant	Respondent(s)	Case No.	Complainant	Respondent(s)
LC 06-007	Abing, Ernesto B.	OB Ent. Dba Sunshine Auto Shop	LC 06-056	He, Ping	MicroPacific, Inc.	LC 06-145	Marcillana, Simeon O.	Motion Auto Repair Center, Inc.	LC 06-300	Villamora, Teresita G.	Buenafior, Amelia C.M. and Vincente Cabrera
LC 06-080	Abogado, Leopoldo F.	Cruz, Angel dba AMC Dev. Corp.	LC 06-051	Hernandez, Virginia C.	Ken Aqua Hotel & Resort, Inc.	LC 06-277	Mario, Aquino V.	Cruz, Theresa R.	LC 06-253	Villegas, Joeme	Royal Crown Insurance
LC 06-156	Acosta, Alfredo Jr. A.	Cid Mostales dba Aqualyte Water	LC 06-130	Herrera, Leopoldo	Family Alliance Corp.	LC 06-138	Maria, Michael D.	Torres, Ernest R.	LC 06-231	Vinaraao, Shirley S.	Camacho, Fermina
LC 06-178	Alamgir, Hossain	Bashar, Md. Abul	LC 06-103	Hong, Fu Hua	American Pacific Textile	LC 06-304	Martinez, Larry S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.	LC 06-182	Voces, M. Erlinda C.	O'Brien, Dan
LC 06-205	Alexander, Alfred S.	JC Tenorio Ent.	LC 06-038	Hu, Huazhen	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-262	Matsumoto, Minoru	Fine Island, Inc. dba Island Garden	LC 06-047	Wang, Fangfang	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-320	Ali, Md. Rojab	Soleman	LC 06-054	Hu, Ping	Michigan, Inc.	LC 06-288	Medina, Felisa C.	Maratita, Kevin	LC 06-212	Wang, Jianwei	United Int'l Corp.
LC 06-126	Aque, Olivia A.	Bazilai Company, Ltd.	LC 06-021	Huang, Fengxia	BQF Service Corp.	LC 06-245	Melchor, Teresa B.	Salas, Margaret H.	LC 06-055	Wang, Jing Hong	Greata Corporation
LC 06-222	Arcega, Lorna L.	Singh, Lydia M.	LC 06-114	Huang, Haiyan	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-133	Mempin, Alex E.	Island Seven Colors	LC 06-062	Wang, Jufang	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-347	Astele, Jonathan L.	Premier Business Solutions, Inc.	LC 06-135	Huang, Jinchi	BMW Corporation	LC 06-303	Mercado, Helen S.	Park, Jin Won	LC 06-158	Wang, Ling Fang	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.
LC 06-317	Atoy, Carmelino L.	Lee, Sung Am	LC 06-310	Huang, Linjen	MZ Corporation	LC 06-287	Mercado, Neijene F.	RIM Architects (Saipan), Inc.	LC 06-155	Wang, Ruping	Mirage Saipan LTD, Inc.
LC 06-280	Ayan, Tanaka	Big Boyz II Marine	LC 06-118	Huang, Lirong	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-294	Miao, Guojun (ER)	Zhang, Hua (EE)	LC 06-087	Wang, Ting	American RF Corp.
LC 06-005	Bai, Ya Hong	Taitifong, Roman A.	LC 06-050	Huang, Qiujuan	Sai-Ichi Int'l, Inc.	LC 06-279	Mizoguchi, Showa	Big Boyz II Marine	LC 06-202	Wang, Wen Juan	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-033	Balane, Agnes B.	Kapiat, Elsi C.	LC 06-148	Huang, Xian Shun	J-XYZ Corp.	LC 06-151	Moni	Benavente, Estanislao K.	LC 06-047	Wang, Xia	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-252	Bonifacio, Edwin O.	Joon Corp. dba Moon Night Club	LC 06-170	Huang, Yilin	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-323	Morales, Gilbert R.	NMPASI	LC 06-328	Wang, Xiaoping	Poong In Saipan, Inc.
LC 06-353	Belo, Dante V.	Taisacan, Jesus M.	LC 06-014	Huang, Yongmei	Taisacan, Ryan SN	LC 06-175	Mostafa, Golam	Ampac, Ltd.	LC 06-163	Wang, Yanzhen	American Sai Green Corp.
LC 06-254	Bello, Solina S.	Bema Corporation	LC 06-203	Huang, Zhong	Yong Jun Song dba Banana Karaoke	LC 06-181	Mozid	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-227	Wei, Hang	Date Corporation
LC 06-173	Bernardo, Solina S.	South Pacific Galaxy Corp.	LC 06-339	Ignacio, Gilbert P.	Sablan, Lisa P.	LC 06-174	Muro, Melba N.C.	Olopai, Rita and Vivian Nogis	LC 06-044	Wei, Yao	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-196	Bigucus, Fernando B.	Babauta, Claudine	LC 06-162	Ignacio, James F.	Glimpses of Guam	LC 06-216	Nabung, Anita M.	Dalsaso, James	LC 06-190	Wen, Jinshi	YJ Company, Ltd.
LC 06-338	Bonifacio, Edwin S.	Sam Corp.	LC 06-297	Islam, Tufazul	Santos, Vincent F.	LC 06-302	Nicdao, Amelia	Park, Jin Won	LC 06-271	Weng, Guangxiong	Napias Corp.
LC 06-252	Buenafior, Anthony M.	Sam Corp.	LC 06-356	Ji, Feng Nu	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-333	Nisperos, Ruben D.	S & BS Enterprises, Inc.	LC 06-117	Wu, Jia	United Int'l Corp.
LC 06-305	Bustamante, Elizabeth B.	Viray Enterprises	LC 06-108	Jia, Min	MicroPacific, Inc.	LC 06-343	Ocenar, Edwin J.	Teregeyo, Charlene	LC 06-119	Wu, Liyu	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-335	Caamic, Maria P.T.	Modern Investment	LC 06-219	Jiang, Chunxiang	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-143	Okawa, Kiyoishi P.	Mabu Corp. dba Ken Restaurant	LC 06-229	Wu, Qiyi	Handsome Textile
LC 06-167	Caballero, Emily G.	Seman, Juanita	LC 06-061	Jiang, Cuixia	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-291	pacur, Helen D.	Saipan Int'l School	LC 06-120	Wu, Yunxia	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-105	Cables, Eduardo S.	Mr. Choi dba So In Corp.	LC 06-127	Jiang, Jian Ping	Aguon, Jose C. dba Papago Island Charcoal	LC 06-331	Palarc, Marcela A.	Bauleong, Melissa	LC 06-090	Xia, Zishuang	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-006	Cai, Juan	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-150	Jiang, Li	Michigan, Inc.	LC 06-307	Palmes, Satumina C.	Alvarez, Bruno	LC 06-226	Xia, Ruiming	Date Corporation
LC 06-049	Cao, Jin	ASC Arch Structure Corp.	LC 06-064	Jiang, Ming Hua	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-221	Pan, Jinhua	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-041	Xie, Yanmei	Nigrarios, Yoko
LC 06-134	Cao, Long Hao	Blue Bird, Inc.	LC 06-312	Jiang, Tianxiao	Saipan SJ Corp.	LC 06-057	Pan, Jun	MicroPacific, Inc.	LC 06-099	Xiong, Xiying	US CNMI Dev. Corp.
LC 06-072	Capili, June G.	Misamis Const. Co., Ltd.	LC 06-225	Jiang, Xiaomei	Top Fashion Corp.	LC 06-258	Panuelos, Eduardo P.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	LC 06-004	Xu, Dang Xiong	Aldan, Vicente M.
LC 06-326	Cario, Florante D.	CMLC Artha Co., Ltd.	LC 06-084	Jiang, Yu Xian	Michigan, Inc.	LC 06-022	Peng, Donghua	MicroPacific, Inc.	LC 06-345	Xu, Qianjun	Walvo Enterprises
LC 06-111	Casarino, Reynaldo I.	KC Company, Ltd.	LC 06-066	Jiang, Yun	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-074	Perez, Elizabeth DLC	Kairos Enterprise, Inc.	LC 06-027	Xu, Que Hua	Rifú Apparel, Inc.
LC 06-052	Castillo, Roger S.	Skey, Rosalia and Emalyn Santiago	LC 06-220	Jin, Aifang	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-215	Pesado, M. Mila C.	Cabrera, Rosalie and Aurora Parial	LC 06-308	Xu, Shunjun	Poong In Saipan, Inc.
LC 06-125	Casuga, Juanita	Bazilai Company, Ltd.	LC 06-136	Jin, Fenghua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	LC 06-284	Piao, Yongzhe	Vision Corporation	LC 06-337	Xu, Xingyi	Yinghua Corp. and Seoul Office
LC 06-161	Catulcan, Nestor C.	Lee, Yoon Jae	LC 06-344	Jin, Ji Hong	B.K. Corporation	LC 06-113	Pickrell, Fiel F.	Chentsov, Oleg dba Troika Restaurant	LC 06-096	Xu, Xiuju	Rifú Apparel, Inc.
LC 06-034	Chen, Chunxiang	Rifú Apparel, Inc.	LC 06-188	Jin, Jizi	Asia Enterprises, Inc.	LC 06-255	Pineda, Nestor M.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	LC 06-016	Xu, Zhang Yu	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-046	Chen, Hongxia	Mirage Saipan LTD, Inc.	LC 06-036	Jin, Yongri	Sam Marianas, Inc.	LC 06-179	Podder, Debesh	Bashar, Md. Abul	LC 06-124	Xue, Jin	Mirage Saipan LTD, Inc.
LC 06-149	Chen, Lifeng	Sun Mei Corp.	LC 06-282	Juan, Zhou	Oak Corp. and Sun Qiao Lan	LC 06-272	Qian, Xiaoli	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	LC 06-261	Yeakum, Suthian	United Int'l Corp.
LC 06-122	Chen, Meier	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-110	Jung, Sung Hwa Baik	Saipan Int'l School	LC 06-233	Qian, Yonglan	Winners Corporation	LC 06-001	Yang, Hai Qin	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-121	Chen, Meigui	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-296	Kashem, Abul	Four Nine Int'l Co., Ltd.	LC 06-341	Ramirez, Delito Jr. B.	Shekinah Fishing Corp.	LC 06-077	Yang, Shuhong	Taiwan Trading Co., Ltd.
LC 06-166	Collo, Amante C.	Sali, Lheng and Carrie	LC 06-267	Kim, Yong Nam	Liberty Age, Inc.	LC 06-210	Ramos, Elizabeth G.	Tambayan Club / Saint Trading	LC 06-147	Yang, Wan Jun	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-273	Crisostomo, Jaime Jr. C.	Yagi, Elvira dba Yumiko Corp.	LC 06-266	Kyakumoto, Kenji	Liberty Age, Inc.	LC 06-232	Raque, Geraldine A.	American RF Corp.	LC 06-039	Yang, Zhirong	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-063	Cruz, Raymundo C.	Leny, Ordinario L.	LC 06-248	Labarda, Lilia M.	Cepeda, Martin	LC 06-346	Ren, Tianchen	Walvo Enterprises	LC 06-207	Yao, Fengying	Central Pacific Corp.
LC 06-217	Cut, Evelyn V.	Rabauliman, Marcelina	LC 06-104	Lacanalier, Noemi G.	Ken Aqua Hotel & Resort, Inc.	LC 06-010	Ren, Yan Hong	Winners Corporation	LC 06-234	Yao, Li Hua	Marianas Garment MFG
LC 06-024	Denora, Mercedes P.	Curry Ent. LLC dba Wild Bar & Grill	LC 06-191	Langit, Samuel O.	Benosa, Isagani dba Bien Seiko	LC 06-285	Reyes, Pepito O.	RIM Architects (Saipan), Inc.	LC 06-177	Yap, Jill S.J.T.	Sablan, Tito dba Kaiana's Hair
LC 06-259	Dhimal, Buddhi L. (deceased)	Osman Gani dba Lucky Security	LC 06-257	Lansangan, Eric R.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	LC 06-157	Ricon, Robert B.	Tagorda, M. Theresa dba Maribeth Corp.	LC 06-073	Ye, Li Feng	Michigan, Inc.
LC 06-180	Dhimal, Pabitra	Villagomez, Maria D.C.S.	LC 06-211	Levy, Ordinario L.	Duenas, Luis and Doris	LC 06-070	Ruan, Chuning	Sai-ichi Int'l, Inc.	LC 06-076	Yin, Dongqing	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-160	Ding, Guozheng	Onwel MFG Saipan, Ltd.	LC 06-017	Li, Chao	Concorde Garment Corp.	LC 06-327	Rubis, Imelda R.	MAC - US Int'l, Inc.	LC 06-060	Yin, Hanmei	Rifú Apparel, Inc.
LC 06-298	Dinopol, Perigrino V.	Quitano, Jesus and Belinda	LC 06-116	Li, Chuan Mei	United Int'l Corp.	LC 06-132	Saccalan, Mario R.	Bien Seiko, Inc.	LC 06-008	Yin, Jian Feng	Michigan, Inc.
LC 06-093	Diola, Mario M.	Micronesia Brokers CNMI, Inc.	LC 06-083	Li, Dongmei	Concorde Garment Corp.</td						

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 210

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Marine Monument: Good for the CNMI, good for the environment

Since the decline of the local garment manufacturing industry, the CNMI has struggled to revive its economy and reinvent its image in the eyes of the world. Now we have that chance with the White House considering the waters around our northern islands as the site of a future national marine monument—a golden opportunity to capitalize on one of our region's greatest assets, the fragile and unique ecosystem of our oceans.

History is full of economic success stories born out of environmental preservation efforts. Take Kalispell, Montana. Founded in 1891, Kalispell began as a station stop on the Great Northwestern Railway. After the railway sought to promote Montana's wilderness as a tourist attraction, it lobbied Congress for help and in 1910, President William Howard Taft signed legislation designating the nearby wilderness as Glacier National Park. Today, Kalispell is known as the "gateway" to Glacier with a thriving tourism economy—Need a hotel near Glacier? You're going to Kalispell. Need gas to tour the park? Stop in Kalispell. You get the idea.—and has grown to become the largest city in its region of the state.

Countless places throughout the world share the same story. Look at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, near Grand Teton National Park, or Banff, in the Rockies of Alberta, Canada. Ecotourism has brought them significant economic growth, jobs and a promising future. With a national marine monument, the CNMI could have the same.

A more direct comparison to bear in mind is the Papahanaumoku National Marine Monument in Hawaii established by President Bush in 2006—a key step in fostering his so-called "blue legacy" of ocean conservation—which draws \$10 million in annual funding alone, according to a recent study released by the Pew Charitable Trust, the organization that is spearheading the monument campaign here in the CNMI.

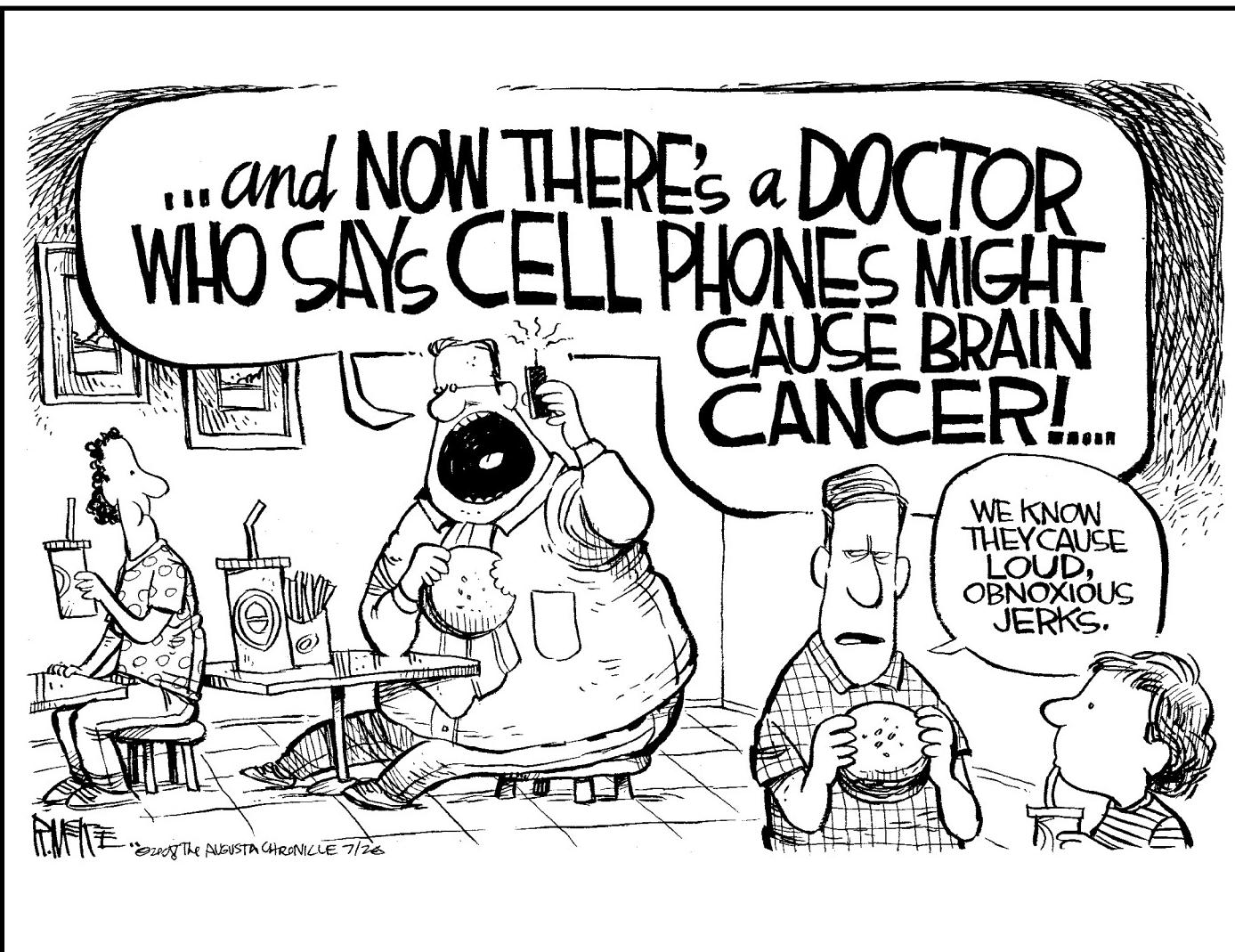
Economic statistics on the Hawaiian monument are scarce right now, the study notes, but just one 15-person trip by tourists into its waters results in \$75,000 worth of spending. The same study found that a monument here in the CNMI could spur up to \$10 million in tourism spending each year, and create hundreds of new and much needed local jobs.

Yet perhaps more important than the economic impact of a marine monument is the dire need to preserve our ocean waters for the future. The world's oceans are now threatened with a slow death due to over-fishing and pollution. Ocean scientists have warned, for example, that if these problems continue at their current rate, 90 percent of the world's seafood supply will be depleted by 2050. Already, a continent-sized swath of water in the Pacific is engulfed by a swirling mass of plastic garbage that threatens marine life and litters beaches, a problem with no foreseeable solution in sight.

Meanwhile, global warming is taking its toll on ocean life in the CNMI and worldwide. A recent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report on the nation's coral reefs revealed that researchers in the CNMI recently had to add ocean acidification—a process that occurs when ocean waters absorb carbon dioxide, prompting changes in pH levels that can harm a variety of aquatic species—to the list of threats facing local corals as atmospheric carbon levels continue to rise.

Pew is also poised to release a scientific report in the coming days composed of never before revealed data showing the proposed monument's waters are a hotbed of biodiversity and rare geological activity, placing greater urgency on the need to safeguard them for generations to come.

See MARINE on Next Page



Waste in Paradise

Have you ever noticed that the government doesn't have repair facilities or maintenance schedules for their equipment? Have you noticed how rundown all the equipment looks? Have you been down to the graveyard of government equipment at Lower Base? Have you driven alongside some government vehicles with rust and eaten away fenders and sides? Why do I bring up this point at this time?

There is so much waste of good equipment that could have lasted many years longer. But because no one maintains it, this equipment simply rusts away in some government lot or is thrown away. Most of this equipment has never been serviced since it was purchased. I guess the thinking is: "After all, it is not our money, but money given to us by the U.S."

I am talking about millions of dollars wasted because we refuse to maintain what we have. Let me cite some of this waste beginning with classic examples at CUC and Public Works at Lower Base.

One of the major reasons we are experiencing such high costly utility bills at the CUC is simply that over the years no one has ever taken the time and responsibility to service the engines. Now we are being strangled, not only by rising fuel costs, but by years of non-maintenance on all the equipment. The people who operated CUC for many years never cared. They did not believe in maintenance. If it breaks down, buy another one! They never understood the phrase "preventive maintenance." The phrase still doesn't exist in most government agencies' vocabulary.

We could live with the rise in fuel costs. However, the additional crushing burden we are asked to bear is the costs of having to repair all the engines that were criminally neglected over the years. Has anyone asked to see the logbooks on each engine? Who should be held responsible for these criminal acts of neglect of our assets?

Early in 2006, I toured the utility plant twice to see for myself. One of the engine bases was cracked then. One or two other engines were taken apart because they were being repaired. Oil was spilled around the bases. When I asked about the repairs, I was told they were waiting for parts. This was over two years ago, and they are still waiting!

As I walked around the yard of the utility building, I noticed rust around some of the metal piping and peeling paint and mildew on the building. The building was in shambles and had a dirty exterior appearance. Appearances of a building and its equipment tells an awful lot about the attitude of management and workers about their workplace.

Scattered around the utility yard were several hundred barrels of used oil with some rusting and about to leak. There was no protection around the drums should any of them start to leak. Across the street is the 400,000 gallon black tank which two years ago was already rusting and showing heavy wear and possible leaking. It is in much worse condition today than it was two years ago.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



The latest word I heard is: "It's the fault of the EPA. They are telling us to wait a bit longer." Wow! I like that story. Should this tank ever spring a leak, kiss the lagoon goodbye for many years. The lagoon will be oil polluted, good to no one. We are just waiting for a disaster to happen. Will we blame the EPA at that time or ourselves?

I then walked over to the lot behind the oil tank and was appalled at the number of equipment and power poles sprawled around the yard like junk. On the same lot in a small metal building were old line transformers just thrown on the ground. What a disgusting waste of good equipment and money!

From there I walked over to the Public Works' old warehouse. Have you ever seen it? It is a long metal building rusting and caving in from total neglect. It used to be Public Works' repair shop years ago. Since then it has become a hazard. Spread around the building are several pieces of equipment that have never been repaired but simply dumped there through neglect. What a loss! Why has this been allowed to happen? Oh, I forgot, it's Uncle Sam's money, not ours! But shouldn't someone be held responsible for this waste?

Drive up to the old Public Works Administration Building and see what a horrible sight it has become. The roof has blown away with huge holes allowing rainwater to flood inside. Rafters are falling down and debris is scattered all over the inside. Weeds and trash is everywhere. No one seems to care that it is both an eyesore and dangerous. Instead, for the past years the Public Works prefers to pay expensive rent money for their offices to a private owner. Wouldn't it be cheaper and better to have repaired or build another building with the rent money? What a waste! Who is responsible?

Back in 2006, I took photographs of this wastage and put them into an album and named it: "Waste in Paradise." Then I gave the albums to the top people in the government while remarking: "Is this what we want to show our future investors?" Everyone was shocked at the photos and promised to take immediate action. If you ask the concerned parties why the area still hasn't been cleaned up, this is what you will hear: "We don't have the money or personnel." Wow! What an excuse. So to date, it has gotten worse. What

See WASTE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Heroes in education

Everyday, as the acting Commissioner of Education, I am faced with an incredible amount of responsibility and determination to make decisions that will affect the lives of many. But I'm not writing about me today, I'm not writing about the many teachers who deserve accolades. I am writing about those foot soldiers in the field of education in the CNMI. The people that for all God's care they are the safety net for the system, the glue that binds the fabric of our very existence. Without them standing there, behind the lines, facing the same tasks day in day out, all the while making barely enough money to make ends meet. They stand there in support of the leadership, from the classroom to the boardroom they are always there. Truly, as school leaders we must understand that it "is not our power to command those under our charge" that makes us effective, more so that "it is those under our command who make us effective."

Leadership in schools and in life mirrors the challenge in building relationships, building character, and the ability to receive respect and admiration from those under your charge. I must have read dozens of books over my career as an educator about school leaders and teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. But there are few books ever written about

the service to the system our support staff provide. On most days they will experience a constant barrage of requests for action, many of those requests coming across as aggravated and sometimes hostile complaints. Whilst I will be the first to admit that every section of the public school system, or even government for that matter, could indeed improve on the delivery of services, exactly the same could be said for many of our classrooms, schools, and government officials.

There is an unbelievable amount of work and commitment that takes place behind the scenes by support staff that no one ever seems to hear about or concern themselves with. From the midnight calls to the school campus to turn water off or fix a break in, to working every Saturday because that's the only time it can be done. These are the unseen acts of commitment, founded in the belief that what they are doing makes a difference not only in their life but in the lives of those they serve. In spite of their sacrifice to their children, their wives and husbands, that's the time we as school leaders and teachers often take for granted: our holidays, and seasonal breaks, our ability to have someone substitute for us. Our support staff do not often have the luxury of missing a day's work. For that may mean also missing a meal

By CRAIG H. GARRISON

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Craig H. Garrison is the acting Education Commissioner for the CNMI Public School System.

for their children, medicine for a cold, or even money for the child's lunch. I have never worked in a system where so many do so much for so little. I think the time is long overdue that we take a serious look at how we treat our support staff, how we compensate them, and how we recognize the service they provide to all of our children and our communities.

School leaders, teachers, students and parents need to take a look at how we as a system view the roles of our support staff and thank them for a job not only well done, but for their tireless integrity and commitment to the support of our teachers, our leadership, and our children. For truly, they are "heroes in education."

Pea Eye

It is to the credit of friends and *kababayans* (of and from the same place) that they do not give me much grief in my use of "Pea Eye" in lieu of "P.I."—traditionally the acronym for the Philippine Islands. To begin with, I am told, P.I. is an American colonial and Commonwealth era designation and it is anachronistic.

Since July 4, 1946, PI had become RP, the Republic of the Philippines. That is when it began touting the story that it is paradigmatic of republican democracy in the Far East. Maybe so, as far as the façade goes, but the mainframe of the structure may be less republican and definitely not democratic than it first seems.

To be sure, the Wild Wild West atmosphere of its premier metropolis Manila—its economics (support and sustenance), politics (policy, program, project making) and culture (meaning and significance)—does give one the impression that the traditions of Greco-Roman justice and law, the Christian tenets of faith-love-hope, the flowering of resurgent humanism in its arts and reformed secularism in its sciences, and the postmodern ethos of ecumenism, ecotopia, and economics-as-if-people-mattered, are all in place and abiding.

Look again. GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) was quoted of late: "Over the last decades, our republic has become one of the weakest, steadily left behind by its more progressive neighbors." Forty years ago, only Japan led the Philippines, ahead of Taiwan, Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand. At the current rate of growth, it will take 30 years for the Philippines to be where Thailand is today!

There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is the reality that only sixteen hundred extended families control 60 percent of the alienable and disposable real estate in the country. One percent of the population has access to the natural resources available in the public domain. Economics favor the select few.

Yet, it is the many that pays for the folly of the few. The Marcos administration left a national debt of \$28 billion. Twenty years later, it is up to \$53 billion. Foreign remittances of contracted labor outside of the country pay for the country's debt retirement. In 30 years, the estimated debt will be at \$200 billion, even with the most liberal prognosis of a healthy economic growth. Pea Eye would then be competing against the likes of the annually devastated Bangladesh economy.

Absolute dependence on external investments has rendered the

value locally added on the economic process minuscule compared to the flow of payments for imported goods that has become an addiction to consumption-induced status-conscious consumers. Add the high fertility rate and improving low mortality rate and there prevails a radical absence of equitable distributive justice.

The global moral contradiction of 15 percent of the population having access to 85 percent of the resources, and the 85 percent of the people having to compete among themselves for the remaining 15 percent of assets is so dramatically portrayed in the urban center of Metro Manila where every symbol of refinement and class is more than quadrupled by the stark reality of deprivation and squalor.

The much polished and publicized form of republican democracy melts with the heat of close scrutiny. If one were to look at the family names of the legislators in the Philippine Commonwealth of 1935, and the Philippine Republic of 1946, one would be forgiven the observation that the Philippines is ruled more by a feudal oligarchy, an entrenched aristocracy than a freely elected body of representatives and executive officers. The art and discipline in the conduct of Philippine elections makes Mugabe's machinations in Zimbabwe bullish child's play. From the buying of votes to the miscounting of cast ballots, and the final misreporting and the hurried declaration of winners to forestall any legitimate protest, the Philippine system excels in the finesse and sophistication of organized obfuscation and deceit.

Pea Eye ranks 11th on a list of the most corrupt of nations. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court decries the current practice of extrajudicial killings allegedly perpetuated by, with the connivance of or tolerated by, the Armed Forces. In any case, life is cheap. Its parts like kidney and other organs are openly and widely offered for sale. As a whole, liquidation teams are hired to "salvage" (*salvaje*) anyone who might have badly crossed one's path. The recent shooting with a silencer of a college basketball player is more than just a case of bad luck.

As to culture, the favorite image is 400 years in the Iberian convent (333 years as a Spanish colony, to be precise), and 40 years in Hollywood (though we are still living in the shadows of Beverly Hills and Park Avenue). This image excuses every aberration in the social matrix, though it hardly explains the perpetuation of practices that had been introduced earlier by colonizers and continue to be observed without hesitation.

When a valued piece of equipment is well maintained, it will last almost indefinitely. The CUC engines could have lasted many more years with proper preventive maintenance. The Public Works Building and its equipment could have been easily repaired. A new building could have been built for less money than the rent that has been paid over the years.

An attitude for maintaining equipment must be drilled into our various government agencies, especially Public Works and CUC. The management and employers must be educated and held responsible for their neglect. It is not lack of money that causes the equipment to deteriorate; it is lack of understanding that all machinery must be regularly maintained.

A strict preventive maintenance program must be followed. The men must be trained in maintaining the equipment assigned to them. Money for parts must be available. Waste is a sin and a crime. We prosecute people who abuse other people. When are we going to prosecute government agencies who abuse the equipment entrusted to them?

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

I attended a worship service last Sunday where the hymns, iconography and architecture were straight out of New England and Midwest America. I was reminded of the movie "Mission" where the natives of Paraguay were taught how to sing the Latin chants beautifully without knowledge of their meaning. Much of the religious rituals of the Christian churches derive from Hispanic and American sources devoid of their profound contexts. The countryside these days have Moroni's LDS manicured lawns competing with Manalo's distinctively spired INK in witnessing to which community of faith can best fly the Christos banner.

In a six-hour bus ride recently, I had to endure the monotonous percussion of rap music. Save for the Iloco and Tagalog lyrics, I felt like I was in the Southside of Chicago. Indeed, it is not inaccurate to say, as was characterized by colleagues in San Francisco recently, that the West Coast of the United States is Roxas Boulevard of Metro Manila. The whole of Luzon looks like an extension of South San Francisco!

What is not evident is the appropriated Indo-Sino-Malay heritage that underlies the archipelago's psyche just below the layer where the conquistadores' influence began. The Hindu, Moslem, and Buddhist accretions to the national story remains outside the perimeters of the mainstream, though the acceptance of the same would neutralize the civil war being waged and fought in the southern island of Mindanao, and bring acceptance to the Sy, Gokongwei, Cojuangco families and the numerous Bombay Bazaars across the archipelago.

So my Pea Eye is a pea-sized eye-level view of a nation and a people coming to its own, and it is well that the CNMI pays attention to its children because they have become in our Commonwealth, for better or for worse, just a wee bit short of being a third of us.

Next time you see government equipment being abused, ask why is this being allowed? We must change our attitude or we will truly be a "paradise of waste." Stop the waste!

MARINE

From Page 10

The *Saipan Tribune* is first and foremost a community newspaper. Our commitment is and always will be to do right by the people of the CNMI. And it is in that spirit that we are giving our endorsement to the proposed national marine monument. The proposal is the right plan at the right time, and was put forth for the right reasons. A national marine monument will benefit our local tourism economy and preserve a beautiful environmental gem. It is our hope that President Bush will establish the monument to give the CNMI the economic boost it needs and the environmental protections its waters deserve.

WASTE

From Page 10

a shameful sight and waste of money. Shouldn't someone be held responsible for this waste?

I bring this matter up because all of the above things I have mentioned have been a waste of many millions of dollars. And this neglect is now digging into our pocketbooks through higher utility rates. Had we repaired the engines when due, we would only be paying for fuel increases, not for many years of neglected maintenance on engines and fuel increases. The Department of Public Works would also have good equipment to service us. Instead it is always breaking down, with no money to repair or replace it.

This attitude of never doing preventive maintenance or even regular maintenance has got to change. An engine or any machinery well maintained can last many years. The people in charge should be held criminally charged with abuse of government property.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 59	▼ 51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 91	▼ 75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 91	▼ 82
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 85	▼ 76
London	Thundershowers	▲ 85	▼ 62
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 80	▼ 64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 56	▼ 45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 90	▼ 76
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 72
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲ 89	▼ 77
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 68
Pusan	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 77
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 69
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 77	▼ 52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 67	▼ 55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 76
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 76
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 90	▼ 70

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
1:57AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
9:55AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
5:33PM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
9:42PM Today	Low Tide: 1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58AM	6:48 PM	Today	1:10AM	2:43PM
Tuesday	5:59AM	6:48 PM	Tuesday	2:10AM	3:49PM
Wednesday	5:59AM	6:48 PM	Wednesday	3:15AM	4:52PM
Thursday	5:59AM	6:47 PM	Thursday	4:21AM	5:50PM
Friday	5:59AM	6:47 PM	Friday	5:27AM	6:42PM

Moonrise/Moonset

- The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following:
- PICTURES**
- ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.
- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
- HOW TO SUBMIT**
- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.
- POLICY**
- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
 - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
 - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com



FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
Saipan-Rota				Rota-Saipan			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Saipan-Guam				Guam-Saipan			
CO 9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO 9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6	CO 9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO 9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota	CO 9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO 9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	CO 9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO 9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO 9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO 9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO 9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO 9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO 9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita				Narita-Saipan			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Saipan-Osaka				Osaka-Saipan			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya				Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Saipan-Seoul				Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan				Busan-Saipan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila				Manila-Guam			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
			and Koror	CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	

Letter to the Editor**Random acts of kindness**

A few weeks ago, my father spoke about people on Saipan who make a difference every day, but are hardly recognized for their contributions. He was speaking specifically about the maintenance workers that we see along the roads of our island. The men who mow, and bush cut, and trim, and rake, cleaning our roadsides all day long in the hot sun. When we appreciate the beauty of Saipan's Beach Road and take a stroll or jog down its beautiful pathway, do we ever stop to say "Thank you!" to the gentlemen responsible for its upkeep?

I thought about this conversation we had two days ago while driving to work while stopped at the Middle Road intersection. It was a scorching hot mid-morning, and the maintenance workers my father spoke about were out in their full battle gear, bush cutting and beating back tall grass and *tangan tangan* from encroaching onto our roads. I drove right by, and about half way to work, I decided to turn back. I pulled into a small store and picked up a half case of soda and some snacks. I drove right next to a pickup truck parked next to the side of the road and got out to give one of the gentlemen the refreshments.

"What's this for?" he asked, seemingly puzzled.

"It's just a small gesture of thanks for all the hard work you guys do every day," I replied.

We spoke for a few minutes. He told me it was the first time anyone ever thanked him or his crew for the work they do. In fact, he told me that a week earlier, a pickup truck packed with hoodlums drove by him while he was bush cutting and threw a beer can at him and told him to work faster. The punks all laughed as they drove away.

As I left, I shook hands and thanked him again. I don't think I've ever spent a better \$8. If that made him smile, and made him and his crew feel appreciated for their efforts in beautifying our islands, then it made all the difference.

I would like to ask everyone to remember the frontline people on our islands. Remember to thank your waitress who stands on her feet all day long and brings you three refills of coffee while you read your morning newspaper; remember to smile and thank the gentleman who is filling your gas tank, even though inside you are cursing the exorbitant price of gas these days; and remember to recognize and thank those who work the frontline that are often subjected to insults rather than praise. Most importantly, remember that it was not the fault of the waiter your cup of coffee was bitter; it was not the fault of the gas attendant that you're paying \$5 a gallon; and it was not the fault of the CUC customer service employee that your last utility bill cost more

than a trip to the Bahamas.

In this very dark and depressing economy, small gestures

of kindness can make an impact in our community. If we all could remember to do just

three small random acts of kindness each day, I believe we could transform our com-

munity. We will do more than just revive the Hafa Adai spirit...we will reinvent it!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

2008 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

August 2nd and 3rd, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort

Show Time: 6:00am • Shotgun Start: 7:00am
Entry forms available now at LaoLao, DFS Galleria or online at www.tocsaipan.com

Over \$275,000 in prizes for grabs

Hole in One Prizes

2008 Honda Civic sponsored by Joeten Motors

2008 Hyundai Accent sponsored by Triple J Motors

Prizes

Men Open
All 1st Place \$600.00
All 2nd Place \$500.00
All 3rd Place \$400.00
All 4th Place DVD Player
All 5th Place \$100.00 cash

Ladies-Low Gross
All 1st Place \$600.00
All 2nd Place \$500.00
All 3rd Place \$400.00

Ladies-Low Net
All 1st Place Trophy
All 2nd Trophy
All 3rd Place Trophy

REGISTER NOW to reserve your slot!

\$1 Million SHOOTOUT
5 chances to win

\$1,000 CLOSEST TO THE PIN

\$50,000 HOLE IN ONE
opportunity on both courses both days

Bonus Double Peoria Category
All players not winning a gross flight category are eligible to win.

Sponsors

Platinum

DFS GALLERIA

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

LAO LAO BAY GOLF RESORT SAIPAN

Gold

Tan Holdings

PEPSI

TRIPLE J MOTORS
Customers First
NEW CARS • USED CARS • PARTS • SERVICE

Miller Lite

JOETEN MOTORS
POWERED BY YOU.

CM

Island Snapshots

FINAL FLIGHT

Airport personnel's unload baggage from a Continental Micronesia aircraft upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport during one of its last flights from Manila.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SENATE SESSION

Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo and Senate Vice President Felix T. Mendiola listen to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna during a special session at the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



ENERGIZER

Left, representatives of various government agencies, non-profit organizations and private business do some energizer during the five-year strategic plan meeting at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club. The event was hosted by the Health Promotion Council, a project initiated by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NEW BRANCH

Far left, PTI president and CEO Ricky Delgado delivers his remarks during the grand opening ceremony for PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



WHITE HOUSE AWARDEE

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio poses with SPC Vera Sablan following the White House Communications Agency's Annual Awards Ceremony. Sablan was awarded based on her outstanding dedication and exemplary performance for providing superb communications to the President, Vice President, and their staff. She is the daughter of retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major Ramon Sablan and Lucy Sablan of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW ARRIVAL

Above, a tourist looks for his luggage upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TOURIST SPOT

Right, tourists enjoy the breathtaking view of the famous Bird Island Sanctuary in Marpi yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

KODAK MOMENT

Far right, tourists have a souvenir photo taken of the spectacular view of the famous Bird Island Sanctuary in Marpi.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Business

Oil nosedive shows up at pump

NEW YORK (AP)—Whether or not any bubble has burst, Americans now live in an economy where the prospect of a gallon of gas for less than \$4 is cause for relief.

That barrier may be broken as early as this weekend, as a two-week nosedive in crude prices begins to ripple out to gas stations nationwide.

The national average for a gallon of regular pulled back to just above \$4 a gallon and oil tumbled to its lowest point in weeks Friday on the belief that prices have yet to reflect just

how badly demand has deteriorated in the United States, the world's thirstiest oil consumer.

Prices at the pump are poised to dip even further, and could cost as much as 25 cents less by Labor Day, AAA spokesman Geoff Sundstrom said.

"People say typically prices shoot up like a rocket, fall like a feather. But this time ... it looks like it's different," Sundstrom said. "The retail sector is interested in bringing these prices down as fast as they can to stimulate business in their convenience stores."

In the trading pits, oil continued on a two-week sell-off. Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell \$2.23 to settle at \$123.26 a barrel in on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier the contract dropped as far as \$122.50, its lowest point since June 5.

Many analysts say the market's momentum points to further declines. Crude has fallen in seven of the last nine sessions, and is down more than 16 percent from its peak above \$147 a barrel earlier this month.

Homeowner rescue awaits Bush

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress approved mortgage relief for 400,000 struggling homeowners Saturday as part of an election-year housing plan that also aims to calm jittery financial markets and bolster the sagging economy. President Bush said he would sign it promptly, despite reservations.

The measure, regarded as the most significant housing legislation in decades, lets homeowners who cannot afford their payments refinance into more affordable government-backed loans rather than losing their homes.

It offers a temporary financial lifeline to troubled mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac - pillars of the home loan market whose losses have sparked investor fears - and tightens controls over the two government-sponsored businesses.

What began as a showdown



AP
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill with fellow Republican Senators Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., following passage of a housing bill by the Senate Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Washington.

between the White House and the Democratic-led Congress over how far the government should go in rescuing homeowners evolved into a bipartisan effort that could be the last such

compromise before Bush leaves office in January.

In a rare Saturday session, the Senate voted 72-13 to send the bill to the president; the House passed it Wednesday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

No angry lines of customers after bank takeover

PHOENIX (AP)—Customers of two banks closed by federal regulators were assured that every penny of their money was protected, preventing lines of angry accountholders from forming Saturday. The calm response was a stark contrast to the hundreds of angry customers who waited for hours earlier this month in Southern California to demand their money after IndyMac Bank's assets were seized. The 28 branches of the 1st National Bank of Nevada and First Heritage Bank N.A. - owned by Scottsdale, Ariz.-based First National Bank Holding Co. - were closed Friday by the FDIC.

FCC approves XM-Sirius satellite radio merger

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s \$3.3 billion buyout of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. will mean millions of subscribers will be able to receive programming from both services, while executives say it will create huge cost savings for the industry. Federal regulators formally approved the merger of the nation's only two satellite radio operators Friday. Subscribers will not have to buy new radios to receive a mix of programming from both services, according to the companies. But if they want to pursue a special pay-per-channel a la carte option, they will need new sets. The FCC voted 3-2 to approve the buyout, with the tiebreaker coming Friday night from Republican commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate.

FCC poised to punish Comcast over Web blocking

WASHINGTON (AP)—A majority of members of the Federal Communications Commission have cast votes in favor of punishing Comcast Corp. for blocking subscribers' Internet traffic, an agency official said Friday. Comcast, the nation's largest cable company, was accused of violating agency principles that guarantee customers open access to the Internet. Three commissioners have voted in favor of an order reaching agreement with the finding, enough for a majority on the five-member commission. But the decision will not be final until all five members have cast their votes. The commission is scheduled to take up the issue at its Aug. 1 meeting.

Stocks end higher following economic readings

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended a volatile week with uneven gains Friday after better-than-expected economic data placated a market pummeled a day earlier by concerns about housing and the financial sector. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 21.41, or 0.19 percent, to 11,370.69. The Dow, which fluctuated at times Friday, fell more than 280 points Thursday. Broader stock indicators also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 5.22, or 0.42 percent, to 1,257.76, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index jumped 30.42, or 1.33 percent, to 2,310.53. For the week, the Dow fell 1.09 percent and the S&P 500 lost 0.23 percent. Friday's tech rally left the Nasdaq up 1.22 percent for the week.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS FOR JULY 31, 2008 & AUGUST 01, 07, 08, 14, & 15, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-604	Coper, Ricardo D.	3K Corporation	August 15, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-662	Lim, Jin Taik	Air World Corporation	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-659	Zhang, Fuhua	Air World Corporation	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-658	Alvaro, Edilberto C.	An Da International Corp.	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-425	Batusin, Gemma T.	Aranda, Roxanne D.	August 14, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-617	Jorda, Veronica J.	Babauta, Susana C.	August 15, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-428	Acupan, Milagros F.	Barit, Antonio M.	August 14, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-427	Barit, Mario M.	BJF Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-524	Rizo, Llerma M.	Cabrera, Fuyun Ya	August 8, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-460	Shen, Ying	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	August 15, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-687	Pinote, Marcelino M.	Crystal Star Corporation	August 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-564	He, Zhi Zhan	Delos Santos, Elena & Lincoln	July 31, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-498	Naungayan, Adelina A.	DLGuerrero, Joaquin Pedro A.	August 15, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-689	Villaraiz, Rosana C.	Dong Rim Corporation	August 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-635	Kabin, Humaun	Dong Rim Corporation	August 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-636	Motaleb, Abdul	Dulay, Weena P.	August 14, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-430	Cabalza, Lucille S.	Falig, Mariano M.	August 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-515	Choi, In Young	Garcia, Mariano A.	August 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-457	Bocatot, Loida F.	Hen Qi Li Corporation	July 31, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-497	Zheng, Shengjuan	HNC Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-373	Barce, Abraham J.	J Min Corporation	August 7, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-673	Huang, Haiyue	Jemikach Co., Ltd	August 14, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-424	Mendoza, Eliza C.	Jin Yong Americana Inc.	August 7, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-672	Li, Ming Hao	Jones, Hongxia Shao	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-536	Cui, Chunnan	Jones, Hongxia Shao	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-535	Lu, Dai Fang	Joo Corporation	August 14, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-620	Joo, Young Hoon	JRC Corporation	August 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-455	Sanchez, Restituta R.	JSSJ Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-626	Hur, Young Joo	JXYZ Corporation	August 8, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-140	Quan, Zhenyu	K & K Corporation	July 31, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-492	Kim, Kyung Hoi	Kaiser G O M C & R F, Inc.	August 7, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-674	Brien, Crisanta	Kims Corporation	August 8, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-453	Morales, Ariel M.	KMH Corporation	July 31, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-562	Chul, Yoon	Lagartus, Rolando	July 31, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-486	Dela Cruz, Rosario A.	Laniyo, Maria Lourdes	August 14, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-574	Ding, Ligian	Larinay, Emmy F.	August 14, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-445	Abarra, Teofila B.	Leong, Lourdes B.	August 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-567	Serrano, Edison D.	Lobrio, Marie Vic M.	July 31, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-509	Mendoza, Leila O.	Luo's Corporation	August 14, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-423	Lu, Jiajiao	Micronesian Engine Services	August 14, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-696	Pineda, Josefina C.	Muna, Arlene A.	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-532	Beri, Walden Q.	Muna, Arlene A.	August 15, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-695	Buenviaje, Carmen B.	N.G.Li Corporation	August 7, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-614	Tang, Xue	Palm Springs Life Ext Inc.	August 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-404	Sula, Jose C.	Pangelinan, Asuncion	August 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-573	Zhang, Nirong	Optima Karaoke	August 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-669	Antiquena, Celbueno L.	Pacific Printing Press Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-670	De Guzman, Maribeth C.	Pacific Printing Press Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-565	Sun, Hongmei	Palm Springs Life Ext Inc.	August 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-538	Razalo, Fe M.	Pangelinan, Asuncion	August 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-678	Bantolino, Carlota Alex	PCC Corporation	August 15, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-494	Chumjai, Chonnikan	Posadas, Segundo	July 31, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-584	Jeon, Sook Ja Kim	Power Corporation	August 14, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-526	Bismanos, Bernabe V.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-525	Javinar, Dionisio G.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-485	Galanza, Mylin D. L.	R Corporation	July 31, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-426	De Guzman, Lorenzo Q.	RVE Enterprises	August 14, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-568	Carlos, Noli D.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-569	Gomez, Milagros D. C.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-570	Jacob, Mario A.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-205	Sofia, Ronnlie D.	Samkor Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-407	Zhao, Huimin	Samkor Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-523	Legaspi, Joy P.	Se Young Corporation	August 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-489	Bautista, Pablo B.	Seman, Enrique K.	July 31, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-431	Zhou, Jian	Shun Yi American Corporation	August 14, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-631	Hayag, Veber Jose S.	Solomon, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-632	Nuqui, Bonifacio C.	Solomon, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-629	Onal, Erlyn B.	Solomon, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-633	Tibayan, Roderick C.	Solomon, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-630	Parreno, Roy T.	Solomon, Nicolas M. Jr.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-432	Encarnacion, Elsie R.	Sula, Jose C.	August 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-597	Yan, Jintang	Suxin Guo Edboi	August 15, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-619	Tababa, Michelle Den Sharon L.	Tababa, Dionesio	August 15, 2008	11:0

Nation

4 dead, 3 missing in NY waters

NEW YORK (AP)—Four swimmers drowned and three were missing Saturday in two days of treacherous ocean currents at Long Island and New York City beaches, authorities said. At least three more had been rescued.

The missing included a 10-year-old girl who had been playing in the waters off Coney Island. A 10-year-old boy who was with her was rescued, police said.

Some authorities said the spate of swimmers being swept away seemed unprecedented. In the Long Island community of Long Beach, where two people drowned and another

disappeared, Police Lt. Bruce Meyer said he "cannot recall there ever being back-to-back situations like this."

The rough seas were due to a strong storm system that brought 8-foot waves to the area earlier this week, National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Connolly said.

The risk of rip currents during the weekend was "moderate," meaning stronger and more frequent instances could be expected and "only experienced surf swimmers should enter the waters," Connolly said.

On Friday, the rip current risk was "moderate to strong."

In Long Beach, a swimmer or surfer died Saturday after he was spotted struggling about 150 yards from shore, Meyer said. Another man drowned at the same beach Friday while playing football in about 3 to 5 feet of water after lifeguard hours. A teenager playing with him was missing.

Also on Long Island, 42-year-old man died Saturday afternoon after swimming at a beach near the ocean in East Quogue, said Southampton Town police.

A fourth swimmer drowned Friday afternoon at Sandy Bar Beach on Long Island's East End.

McCain campaign says Obama 'shortchanged' injured soldiers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican John McCain's campaign sharply criticized Democratic rival Barack Obama for canceling a visit to wounded troops in Germany, contending Obama chose foreign leaders and cheering Europeans over "injured American heroes."

Obama's campaign called the accusation "wildly inappropriate" on Saturday as the Illinois senator returned to the United States.

His spokesman has claimed that the visit to a military hospital in Germany was scrapped after the Pentagon raised concerns about political activity on a military base. Earlier, though, the campaign had said Obama decided the visit might be seen as inappropriate politicking. However, the Pen-



McCain



Obama

McCain virtually dared Obama to make the overseas trip during earlier campaigning, claiming that his rival was naive on foreign policy and national security and pointing out that Obama wanted to withdraw from Iraq.

draw troops from Iraq within 16 months of his presidency even though had not been to Iraq since January 2006.

But McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner of war, struggled to get the media spotlight in a week in which Obama visited Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Europe, as he tried to reassure American voters that he can handle international politics and mend relations with key allies frustrated with eight years of President George W. Bush.

A new McCain ad that began airing Saturday in selected markets also chides Obama as disrespectful for making "time to go to the gym" during his European visit while at the same time canceling the visit with wounded troops.

Montana town loses 4 teens, athletic hopes

DENTON, Mont. (AP)—Here in rural Montana, the long roads stretch to the horizon over rolling hills covered with wheat. Drivers casually lift a hand off the wheel to greet oncoming drivers, whether they recognize the car or not.

Teenagers start driving as early as 15, because it's usually a long way to where you want to go. And they almost always play high school sports, mostly because there is little else to do in a small town.

So on July 19, four boys piled into a car to play in a summer basketball tournament in a neighboring town.

On the way, the car crashed, rolled and burned. Police say no speeding or dangerous driving was involved, and they still aren't sure why the car caught fire.

The wreck killed brothers Kale and Kade Phelps, as well as fellow players Jace Jelinek and Dayne Heble. The oldest was 17, the youngest 14.

They were 10 percent of Denton High's student body.

"They were going to do something they love to do," said Scott Sparks, who coaches basketball and football at the school.

The social fabric of Denton, in central Montana, is woven around high school sports. The school colors—blue and white—hang in the windows of the few businesses in town. Most, if not all, of the town's 300 residents show up for football games.

Iowans to lawmakers: Stop immigration raids

POSTVILLE, Iowa (AP)—An immigration raid that arrested nearly 400 people in northeastern Iowa scarred a small town and tore families apart, residents said Saturday.

Dozens begged a visiting congressional delegation to do everything in its power to stop federal immigration raids. The May raid in Postville at Agriprocessors, the nation's largest kosher meatpacking plant, by Immigration and Customs En-

forcement officials was the largest of its kind in U.S. history.

Reps. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., Albio Sires, D-N.J., and Joe Baca, D-Calif., members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, heard three hours of often emotional testimony. Women whose husbands are being detained talked about their longing to be reunited, under-age workers detailed deplorable working conditions and city and religious

officials lamented the impact on the community.

The speakers alternated between sharp criticism of immigration officials and the Department of Homeland Security for launching what they called an inhumane raid, and at their former employer, Agriprocessors, which they said took advantage of workers and allowed unsafe conditions. Many said they were equally responsible for the situation.

Asia

Bombings in India city kill 29

AHMADABAD, India

(AP)—Bombs exploded Saturday near a busy market and a hospital in a western Indian city, killing 29 people and injuring 88 a day after deadly blasts struck the southern technology hub of Bangalore.

A group calling itself the Indian Mujahideen claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack but offered few other details in e-mails sent to several television news stations, the CNN-IBN station reported. The group was unknown before May when it said it was behind a series of bombings in Jaipur, also in western India, that left 61 people dead.

In its latest e-mail, the group reportedly made no mention of the smaller bombings Friday in Bangalore and it was not clear if the two attacks were connected.

At least 16 bombs went off Saturday evening in several crowded neighborhoods of Ahmadabad—a crowded and historic city that in 2002



A police officer stands amongst destroyed vehicles and bicycles outside the Trauma Ward of the Civil Hospital in Ahmadabad, India, Sunday, July 27, 2008.

was the scene of some of the worst rioting between India's Hindu majority and its Muslim minority.

The bombs went off in two separate spates. The first, near a busy market, left some of the dead sprawled beside stands piled high with fruit, next to

twisted bicycles and in public squares. The second went off near a hospital. The side of a bus was blown off and its windows shattered while another vehicle was engulfed in flames. Most of the blasts took place in the narrow lanes of the older part of Ahmadabad, which is tightly packed with homes and small businesses. Bomb-sniffing dogs scoured the areas that were hit.

Distraught relatives of the wounded crowded the city's hospitals. One of the wounded was a 6-year-old whose father was killed in the blasts. He lay in a hospital bed with his arms covered in bandages and wounds on his face.

Narendra Modi, the chief minister of Gujarat state where Ahmadabad is located, called the blasts "a crime against humanity." He said the bombings appeared to have been masterminded by a group or groups who "are using a similar modus operandi all over the country."

Experts: No bomb in Qantas jet hole

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Australian investigators in Manila say they have found no sign a bomb caused the giant hole in a Qantas jumbo jet's fuselage that forced a harrowing emergency landing in the Philippines.

Neville Blyth, senior in-

vestigator of the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, says the focus is on an oxygen bottle missing from the cargo hold. The hold was left exposed when a section of the 747-400's metal skin ripped away 29,000 feet over the

South China Sea on Friday.

Blyth told a news conference Sunday that tests for bomb residue were negative and that Philippine officials had bomb-sniffing dogs go through the hold, finding no indication of explosives.

Dozens of militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan

(AP)—More than 100 militants attacked a government center in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, a clash near the border with Pakistan that killed dozens of insurgents and two police, an official said.

The militants attacked the district center from four directions before being pushed back, Jamal said. More than 50 militants died, while the rest fled into Pakistan, he said. Two policemen died and four were wounded.

The number of militant attacks in eastern Afghanistan has increased 40 percent compared to the same period last year. Afghan and Western officials say Pakistan has not done enough to crack down on militant hideouts on its side of the border, a charge

Pakistan rebuffs.

Separately, several militants were killed and four were detained during an operation in neighboring Paktia province on Saturday, the U.S.-led co-

alition said.

The troops were searching the compounds of a militant when a group of insurgents fired on them from a fortified fighting position, the statement said.

Athletes' Village opens in Beijing

BEIJING

(AP)—The Athletes' Village for the Beijing Olympics held its official opening ceremony Sunday, an all-Chinese curtain raiser with basketball stars Yao Ming, Yi Jianlian and Wang Zhizhi heading a 265-member delegation of athletes and officials.

A few foreign delegations were in town Sunday - just 12 days before the opening ceremony of the games - but none appeared officially at the inauguration, which was festooned with confetti and dozens of Chinese children handing out Olympic mascots to some of country's most powerful politicians.

"We now welcome athletes from around the world to come

to the games," said Chen Zhili, speaking from a stage draped in red. Chen is the so-called mayor of the village, and a vice president of the organizing committee.

"We will try to satisfy the needs of people from different cultural and religious backgrounds," said Chen, who received a symbolic gold key to the village from organizing committee president Liu Qi. Liu is also the head of Beijing's Communist Party.

The opening came on a hot, muggy morning made more uncomfortable by the thick haze of pollution hanging over the village, which is to house about 16,000 athletes and officials.

World

Policy gains may be tougher for Obama

LONDON (AP)—There is little question that Barack Obama captured Europe's heart during the tumultuous visit that ended Saturday evening, but hard questions remain about whether Obama, if he wins, could transform that enthusiasm into concrete policy gains.

After the harsh anti-Americanism that has thrived in Europe for most of this decade, it was jarring to see a U.S. politician receive such adoration from the public, press, and the continent's leaders, who seemed almost to swoon in his presence.

Polls show not only that a strong majority in countries like Britain would choose Obama over Republican rival John Mc-



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. arrives at Midway Airport in Chicago, Saturday, July 26, 2008.

Cain if they could, but also that the general distaste for the United States has softened some-

what as Obama's White House bid gathers pace.

"Since the race has been going on, we've found a slight movement toward the U.S.," said Anthony Wells, research chief for PoliticsHome in Britain. "I'm confident this is the Obama influence. The anti-Americanism of recent years seems closely tied to George Bush. The people love Obama."

But many analysts believe that if Obama completes his march to the Oval Office, this backing will dissipate the first time he presses Europe to send more troops to Afghanistan or to support an aggressive U.S. military stance at odds with Europe's strong preference for diplomacy over cruise missiles.

'Hamas militant killed in West Bank'

HEBRON, West Bank (AP)—Israeli troops killed a Hamas militant in the West Bank town of Hebron early Sunday, Palestinian security officials said.

Israeli troops surrounded a house in Hebron, exchanging fire with the militant inside and eventually bulldozing the house hours later when the man refused to surrender. The militant's badly mauled body was seen being removed from the rubble.

The Israeli military confirmed it carried out the raid, saying that during the exchange of fire troops heard explosions from inside the house, presumably from bombs stored inside.

Palestinian security officials identified the man as a 25-year-old militant from Hamas and said he was wanted by Israel for involvement in suicide bombings.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because

they were not authorized to divulge information on the raid to the media.

Israel and Hamas are observing a cease-fire in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. But the agreement does not apply in the West Bank, ruled by moderate President Mahmoud Abbas. Israeli troops continue to target militants in the territory, despite objections from Abbas that such actions embarrass him and undermine his control.

Rice to Fiji military: Restore democracy

APIA, Samoa (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pressed Fiji's military-led government Saturday to keep its promise to restore democracy early next year, during a rare visit by America's top diplomat to the far-flung South Pacific.

Rice held talks with counterparts from 16 island nations from the region, which is struggling with a range of issues from rising sea levels to rampant poverty, instability and ethnic strife.



Rice

A key focus of the talks in Apia, Samoa, was regional efforts to get Fiji's military commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama, who seized power in a December 2006 coup, to keep his promise to hold elections by next April.

Earlier this month, Bainimarama postponed the elections he had assured the South Pacific Forum regional bloc, saying the timetable was unachievable because he wants to make electoral reforms that could not be completed in time.

WORLD BRIEFS

Official: Egyptian guards wound migrants trying to enter Israel

RAFAH, Egypt (AP)—An Egyptian health official says border guards have wounded two African migrants who were trying to cross illegally into Israel. Imad Kharboush of El-Arish Hospital says a Sudanese and another migrant from Burkina Faso were wounded Sunday when the guards opened fire on them. He says two other migrants from Burkina Faso have been arrested by police in the incident south of Rafah. African migrants have been flocking to the desert border area trying to cross into Israel to seek political asylum and jobs. They are often helped by bedouin human traffickers.

Report: Iran hangs 29 convicts

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—State television website says 29 people convicted of murder, drug trafficking and other crimes have been hanged in Tehran's Evin prison. The website says the convicts included those found guilty of murder, rape, armed robbery and drug trafficking. The hangings were carried out after the death verdicts were approved by the country's Supreme Court. Murder, rape, armed robbery, kidnapping and drug trafficking are all punishable with the death penalty under Iran's strict Islamic regime. The hangings brought to over 100 the number of people executed in Iran so far this year.

Chilean authorities worried about two volcanoes

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—The Llaima volcano, one of Chile's most active, erupted again on Saturday, sending a stream of lava down its slope and spewing a long plume of ash, authorities said. At the same time, the Chaiten volcano rumbled once again and could be preparing for another eruption, according to a Chilean volcanologist. Recent seismic activity and ash emissions from Chaiten could lead to the "worst-case scenario" for reactivation, said Jorge Munoz of Chile's geological service. The Chaiten volcano, located 745 miles (1,200 kilometers) south of Santiago, began erupting May 2, emitting clouds of ash and rock that forced the evacuation of thousands around the town of Chaiten. Residents have yet to return.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DPW08-RFP-024

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 11 SABANA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the Construction Management Services of Route 11 Sabana Road and Drainage Improvements, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 21, 2008 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on August, 7, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time August 21, 2008.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - 25%
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - 30%
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - 25%
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - 20%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-RFP-024". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 26, 2008. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 26, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 26, 2008 and must be received no later than September 4, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DPW08-RFP-025

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 201 ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the Construction Management Services of the Route 201 Road and Drainage Improvements, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMT).

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 21, 2008 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on August, 7, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time August 21, 2008.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - 25%
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - 30%
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - 25%
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - 20%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-RFP-025". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, August 26, 2008. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, August 26, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 26, 2008 and must be received no later than September 4, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration FHWA. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement and Supply

Health & Fitness

NYC adds double dutch rope jumping as school sport



Elementary school girls participate in a double dutch jump rope practice session at the St. Peter Claver Gym in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

By KAREN MATTHEWS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The popular urban street pastime called double dutch, in which competitors jump between two ropes twirled eggbeater-style, is getting more recognition, becoming an officially sanctioned sport in New York City high schools.

School officials say adding double dutch to the calendar should get hundreds of students participating in an enjoyable aerobic activity.

"We're always thinking, what do we need to do to get more kids playing?" said Eric Goldstein, chief executive of the Public School Athletic League.

Double dutch will be a spring sport this coming school year after basketball season is over and there is space in the gyms.

According to the National Double Dutch League, Dutch settlers brought the game to New York in colonial times—hence the name.

Privacy isn't the only benefit that a personal trainer can deliver

Q. I have a friend who is overweight and seriously lacking in dedication and confidence. I know I can't force him to work out, but I thought if I made him a gift of a session or two with a trainer, that might be good for him. I know you get this question for women a lot, but are there any gyms or trainer services that are friendly to self-conscious, beginner men? The Curves for men, if you will.

A. Somewhere out there, someone is reading this and thinking, "Eureka! Curves for dudes! I'll make millions." Forget about it. It's been done, and it hasn't been very popular. Ever heard of Cuts or the Blitz? Exactly. My theory is that guys have a problem admitting they didn't emerge from the womb bench pressing.

But your gift idea isn't a bust: Just direct those funds to a personal training gym. These gyms tend to be much

it has been a competitive sport in New York since the 1970s when police Detective David Walker worked with physical education instructors to develop rules and a scoring system.

The sport has spread beyond its base in inner-city black neighborhoods and is especially popular in Japan, whose teams have won

ON THE NET:

Athletic League:
<http://www.psal.org/>

Double Dutch League:
<http://www.nationaldoubledutchleague.com/>

a number of recent tournaments. Teams from around the globe compete in tournaments like the Double Dutch Holiday Classic at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

However, it isn't an official sport in any other school district in the United States, Goldstein said.

"We're the first, and we like being

smaller than those huge corporate health clubs, but they can do as much or more for your body as the big boys. Take, for example, Fitness Together, which opened its first D.C. gym this year. "We have private rooms, so the only person you have to interact with is your trainer," owner Dave Ridings explains. "We try to make it like working out in your living room."

Your friend could even make it exactly like working out in his living room if you spring for the \$5 to \$50 extra that trainers charge to make a house call, a fairly common service. No matter how lazy you are, it's hard to weasel out of a workout when someone rings your doorbell holding resistance bands.

The benefit of this kind of training extends beyond privacy. With a personal trainer, your friend will get a workout tailored to his specific needs, which is critical for folks new to exercise and testing their limits. "Especially with people who are severely overweight, you can hurt yourself" if you don't know what you're doing.

first," he said.

The last sport the athletic league added was cricket, which was brought to New York by immigrants from the Caribbean and South Asia. Fourteen teams competed in the spring 2008 inaugural cricket season.

Ruth Payne, a retired drug-prevention counselor who coaches double dutch, was a major force behind persuading the athletic league to add the sport to its roster.

"It's a great thing," she said. "Thousands of

girls jump rope, but they do it as a recreational sport, just for fun. For it to be in the schools, that means it's getting good recognition as a sport."

Double dutch is scored on a point system, with compulsory, speed and freestyle components.

The compulsory section has several

Ridings adds. "You're putting a lot of stress on your body and heart."

As for a polite way to deliver said present, um, good luck.

■ ■ ■

Q. I recently began taking part in triathlons. For swimming training, I use small swim fins on my feet. These help me swim much faster, and my theory is that they provide more resistance and my leg muscles are working harder because of this. Also, I feel that I can focus more on my breathing and my stroke while training. Is this advisable, or am I just deluding myself? Should I train with the fins if I will not be using them in the races?

A. Let me guess: You also do your practice runs on a treadmill with no incline and walk your bike up daunting hills? While it's a rush to feel speed, forgetting about reality won't do you any favors on race day, advises Washington area swim coach and legend Clay Britt (Claybrittswimming.com).

It's not that he doesn't like fins. He

requirements.

"You have to do an aerial, which is like a flip," Payne said. "You have to do a rapid dance with some fancy footwork, you have to do a rope trick and you have to do a cheer, an ending that your whole team takes part in."

Double dutch will officially be coed, though the great majority of participants are girls. "Jump In!" a 2007 Disney cable movie, starred Corbin Bleu as a high schooler who defies gender stereotypes by forsaking boxing for double dutch.

School sports officials hope to start with 10 to 15 double dutch teams spread among the five boroughs.

Shani Newsome is excited about coaching double dutch at Bedford Academy High School in Brooklyn, where she is a teacher's aide.

"Double dutch is a sport that gets girls involved no matter what their condition is," she said. "It's something that builds stamina. You start out slow."

Newsome said that when she was growing up in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, "jumping double dutch was one of the requirements of being outside."

And when she asked for a show of hands at Bedford Academy, "90 percent of the young ladies" indicated that they would try out for a team.

Kunnuh Wisseh, an incoming junior at Benjamin Banneker Academy, also in Brooklyn, hopes to be on her school's team.

"I always looked at double dutch as a sport, and for it to actually be in PSAL, now it's going to be even more competitive than it was before," she said.

Payne, who coaches Kunnuh in Brooklyn's Jammin' Jumpers double dutch team, said young people who participate in the sport learn skills that will help them succeed in life.

They learn how to negotiate," she said. "They learn how to talk, they learn discipline. And they learn to work together."

just doesn't like them for swimming. He thinks they're suited for kicking practice, which he separates into its own activity.

Britt understands why people in your position, still working on breathing and stroke technique, might need a boost in the pool. "But they become a crutch, so I discourage people from using them," he says. One of his reasons is that legs really aren't as important to swimming as you might think. Britt says only a tiny percentage of your propulsion comes from down below, while your arms and torso rotation are what really give you motion in the ocean.

Instead of the fins, he recommends you invest in instruction. "Michael Phelps gets coached three to four hours a day. If he still needs a coach, everybody still needs a coach," Britt says. Too pricey? Then join a masters team, a swim team for adults. Helpful lane buddies can give you pointers, plus you'll get a taste of competition.

Let that perk up your time, not pieces of rubber on your feet.



by Andrea Wyatt
M.S.S., C.S.C.S.

Stressed out over exercise

Q: I enjoy working out to get away from the day-to-day stresses of my job and family. My usual routine is to do group exercise classes three days a week and walk with a neighborhood friend three days a week. My stress has dropped a little, but not as much as I thought it would. Also, I thought I might have lost a little weight just by exercising. What am I doing wrong?

A: Exercise can have many benefits, including reducing stress and losing weight. If you're not seeing the results you desire, we need to identify what other factors might be playing a role.

A regular exercise routine is a great place to start to help facilitate weight loss while encouraging stress relief. Stress can slow our metabolism, affect hormone levels and cause us to store body fat around our abdominal region.

While exercising, take the time to relax and focus on your workout. Bringing your stress into your workout can keep you from truly using your workout time to relieve stress. If talking about what might be causing stress in your life only causes you to become more stressed, then avoid taking those feelings into your workout.

Find an exercise routine that you enjoy and where can practice breathing and relaxation techniques. Stretching, mind/body classes such as Qigong, Tai Chi or yoga, and workouts that help focus your thoughts on not becoming overwhelmed can not only provide a great workout, but techniques you can use in everyday life.

Remember to modify your workouts, as you may need to try different things at different times of your life. You might enjoy group classes this month, but become bored with them next month. Change up your routine and try something new and exciting. This also can provide something to look forward to if the rest of your life is hectic and stressed.

Exercise and nutrition must go hand in hand. Some people use food to help deal with stress, so to keep this from becoming a factor, monitor your nutritional habits. A healthy, balanced nutritional plan combined with regular exercise can help facilitate weight loss. However, you can exercise and not begin to see the physical results because of your nutritional habits.

A regular routine of exercise and proper nutrition is a great start to reducing stress and keeping control of your weight. Keep trying each day to find a combination of exercise and nutrition that works for you—and avoid becoming frustrated. Exercise and nutrition should not add more stress to your life.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Life & Style

SAVORING THE GOOD LIFE

The irrepressible Michael Caine

By WILLIAM BOOTH
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Bloody genius Michael Caine is having a bloody good time. He's got the bloody boffo house in the English countryside with the bloody huge garden. "I grow every bloody thing," he says. "I'm a bloody good cook." Sauces? Don't even get him started.

When he's not putting about as a millionaire farmer, he's in Miami Beach or on the Riviera with his wife, the former model Shakira Baksh. "We have friends in France, and we goof off down there on the weekends." This is a man who has achieved a certain perspective at age 75. One of his favorite movies is "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," because he got to live in the South of France for three months while filming it.

"Bloody marvelous," he recalls, and when Caine says bloody "marvelous," his marvelous just sounds better than your ordinary marvelous, thanks to the bangers-and-mash accent and that smile, being this giddy, gluttony, happy, wicked smile, which works even better because his teeth are yellow with the memory of a million marvelous meals accompanied by the kind of wine that robs precocious children of their college tuitions. White veneers? Not bloody likely.

Caine is in town to promote "The Dark Knight," the disturbing, hyperviolent continuation of the Batman story, starring Caine in a reprise of his role as Alfred the butler, with Christian Bale as the caped crusader and Heath Ledger as the rattlingly intense, slurring fast-cycling psychopath Joker. The critics agree that Ledger performance is the scariest/best thing about this summer blockbuster, and of course interest in the movie is only stoked by Ledger's sudden death earlier this year of an overdose.

"Lovely guy," Caine says. "I got to know him a little bit. Just on the set a bit. I was so impressed by his performance. And when I saw the movie, I was bowled over. On set, we would be chatting about this or that. Then the director would say, 'We're ready, Heath,' and then he'd go straight into that maniacal thing. I told him, 'I'm too old to play a part like that. I don't have energy to do that, what you do. Come to think of it, I don't think I had the energy to do it at your age.' It was stunning on the screen. But to be there when he was doing it ... "He lets out a long, slow profanity.

We mention that Caine himself lived some wild years. In a recent piece in the British press, he mentions drinking *bottles* of vodka.

"Oh, I just drink wine with food now. Though I thoroughly enjoy it. You know, I was never an alcoholic, but it is true I was on occasion very, very drunk." The smile. "But you know, I used to go out on the town with Peter O'Toole, so I had a bloody master craftsman teaching me." (Caine was an understudy for O'Toole on the London stage.)

On the topic of drink, Caine unspools his theory of the social history of the late 20th century. Oh, we had our times, he says, "but the difference with us, we were always getting pissed, with alcohol. Booze we were. That's why the '60s were so successful. Because with booze you're all out together, drinking. What screwed up the '70s was drugs, because you had to stay at home and take the bloody drugs and you couldn't go out or you got busted by the police. The '60s got finished around 1975 when everybody was high as a kite and couldn't go out. Couldn't find their bloody shoes if they wanted to go out. You don't go out and take drugs."

Caine is sitting in a \$1,000-a-night suite, down the hall from the even bigger room where he is staying. One reason it is so delicious to be Sir Maurice Joseph Micklewhite Jr.—he was knighted—is that he came from a two-room, gaslit, cold-water flat. Caine, the son of a charlady and a porter at a fish market, evacuated to the countryside during the

Michael Caine poses for a photo at the Chicago movie premiere for "The Dark Knight" on Wednesday, July 16, 2008.
AP



London bombings in World War II.

"We lived on a farm. It was fantastic," Caine remembers. "I've returned to that farm, in a way. I live in a great big barn with a great big garden. When you get old, you relive your childhood, which is what I'm doing."

But with better wine. "Bloody right," Caine says.

He recalls: "After the war, we lived in a prefabricated house. Because we were bombed out. You put the house up in a day. If I were to show you this house, which was the size of this room, it was like paradise for me. If I were to show it to you, you'd think it the biggest piece of junk. But it was luxury for us. Hot and cold running water. It had a bathroom. Electricity! For me it was incredible."

After he became a movie star, he brought his mother to Los Angeles. "I took her to Beverly Hills, like in February, when in England it's rain and snow and bloody bleak. We're driving along. It's all plants and flowers everywhere. I say to my mother, what do you think? And she says the truest thing ever said about Beverly Hills, even though it was a mistake. She said, 'Look at it, all that hysteria, growing up the walls.'"

Caine laughs with pleasure at the memory.

Caine never formally studied acting. "When I got out of the Army"—he served in Korea for two years, got malaria, the treatment almost killed him—"I was working in a factory and I told this old guy I was going to be an actor, but I didn't know how to go about it....

(He) says to me, 'There's a newspaper advertises for actors, it's called the Stage.'"

Caine got a job as assistant stage manager out in the boonies. He had never seen a professional play. "Never," he says. "I didn't have the money to go to the theater. It wasn't like that. It was also a very tough area where I'm from. Tell someone you were going to see a play, they say, 'What is he? Gay?'"

He learned his craft doing 50 plays a year in regional repertory theaters in England. Caine has since appeared in more than 100 films—many of them memorable ("Zulu," "Alfie," "Sleuth," "Educating Rita," "The Cider House Rules," "The Quiet American") and many of them duds (like, um, "Beyond the Poseidon Adventure"). That is another reason that people like Michael Caine. The turkeys. Is there not a certain reckless pluck in an actor who wins a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for Woody Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters" while making a film called "Jaws: The Revenge"?

"It was only a 10-minute role. It was only 10 days' work. In Nassau. In the Bahamas. And they were going to pay me a million bucks for 10 days, and I said, 'Hey, I'll do that.' I didn't take any notice of it," Caine says. "I didn't write it, direct it, photograph it, produce it, didn't play any of leading parts, but I get the blame."

"I bought my mother a house with the money," he says, "so I was very pleased with myself. But I don't do that anymore."

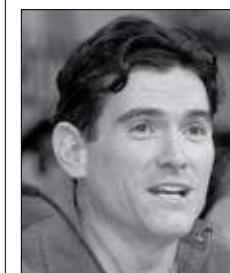
'Watchmen' aims to answer typical superhero films

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Zack Snyder is standing inside a 9,000-pound, tanklike metal pod in the center of the crowded Comic-Con floor. He nonchalantly points out the features of the Owl Ship, a real-life version of the flying vehicle from the award-winning graphic novel "Watchmen."

"The Owl Ship's got to have an eight-track," Snyder says. "There's also a coffee maker. That's really important to the Owl Ship."

Snyder, whose adaptation of the graphic novel "300" grossed more than \$200 million, says directing "Watchmen" isn't a job he would have sought, but it's one that suits him fine: Staying true to a beloved story that dismantles the superhero archetype.

"These modern superheroes, like Iron Man, Batman and Superman, they're our mythology and (author) Alan (Moore) sort of deconstructed that mythology and said no,



Crudup

they're us," Snyder says. "Other superhero movies—Iron Man, 'Batman'—they're like a mishmash of all the different mythology."

Snyder says his adaptation of Warner Bros. "Watchmen," slated for release next March, is more true to the source material than was the Oscar-winning "No Country for Old Men."

He sticks to the story because of the complex concepts involved, he says, such as exploring superheroes' ethical and moral challenges.

The story "deconstructs heroes. ... It kind of takes it all the way," Snyder says. "How far do you take this superhero thing? Do you take a cat out of a tree or do you create world peace? That's really the dilemma that they face. Superman has the ability to go to all the world leaders and say, 'I will kill all of you if you don't behave.' He could do that, but why doesn't he?"

Snyder showed a bit of never-before-seen footage to the more than 6,000 fans who gathered Friday for a panel featuring the "Watchmen" cast. The clip, an expanded version of the trailer that plays before "The Dark Knight" in theaters, is at once stylized and realistic—and definitely dark.

It opens with Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley), then briefly introduces each of the Watchmen: Dan Dreiberg (Patrick Wilson) before he assumes his Nite Owl identity, Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup), the cigar-chomping killer Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) and the elder and younger incarnations of the sexy Silk Spectre (Carla Gugino and Malin Akerman). It ends with the Comedian surrounded by shattered glass as he is thrown from a window.

Illustrator Dave Gibbons, who co-created "Watchmen" with Moore, said seeing his vision come to life "is just the stuff of dreams, really."

"What really did it for me was the Owl Ship," he said. "To stand inside the Owl Ship... and to smell the Comedian's cigar, to have the Comedian slap me on the back and proudly show me his guns... I was completely thrilled."

Comic-Con opened Thursday at the San Diego Convention Center. "Watchmen" is set for release in March.

'Terminator Salvation' clip unveiled at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP) — "Terminator Salvation" won't hit theaters until next summer, but thousands of fans got an early look at a portion of the film Saturday.

Director McG presented never-before-seen footage during a Comic-Con panel and offered a few hints about what to expect from the highly anticipated fourth installment in the "Terminator" franchise.

For example, Arnold Schwarzenegger could be back.

"The T-800 model indeed is

part of the mythology of Terminator," McG said coyly, referring to the machine model California's governor played in the first three films.

James Cameron, who directed the first two "Terminator" films, and special-effects master Stan Winston, who died in June, also each had a hand in the film, McG said, adding that Winston made a cameo appearance.

"He wrestles one of the hydroids," the director said.

The movie, now shooting in

New Mexico, could end up with an R rating rather than the rumored PG-13, McG revealed.

"We put the picture first at all times," he said. "If it's an R-rated picture, it's an R-rated picture and that's that."

He acknowledged that the studio is responsible for some of the online rumors.

"We release, like everyone else does, misinformation campaigns," McG said. "One of the joys of going to the movies is not knowing what's

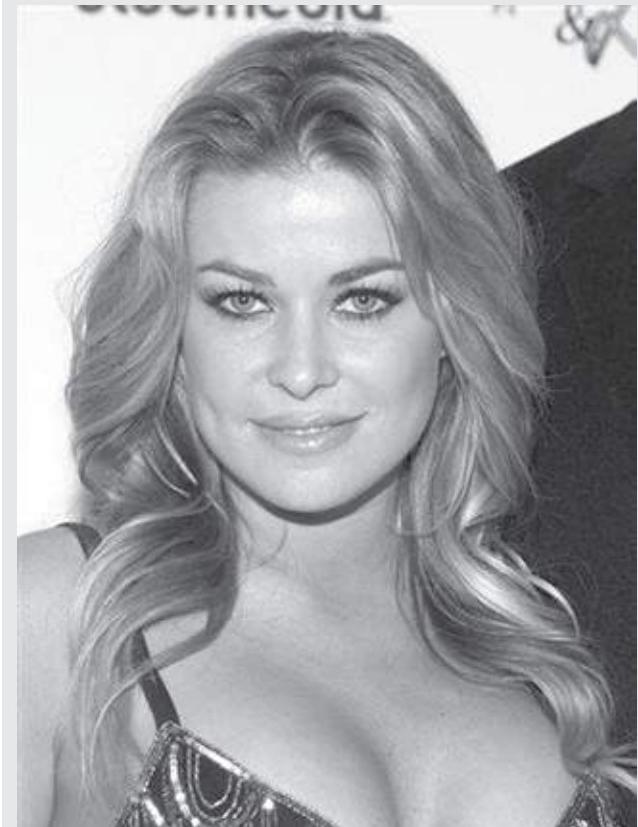
going to happen."

The brief clip shown Saturday was filled with explosions, tanks, gas masks, guns and crushed skulls.

Set in 2018, the film is dark and apocalyptic, "exploring what the world is like after a nuclear holocaust," the director said. "We wanted everything to feel like giant Soviet tanks crushing all comers."

"Terminator Salvation," a Warner Bros. release, is set to hit theaters in May.

Electra, Kardashian dazzle comics fans



SAN DIEGO (AP) — The line snaked through the Comic-Con floor. Hundreds of camera-toting fans jockeyed for position, barely able to contain their excitement.

They weren't trying to see the latest world-saving superhero or never-before-seen footage. They were waiting to see Carmen Electra and Kim Kardashian.

The two beauties made their Comic-Con debut Saturday, signing autographs to promote their new film, "Disaster Movie." Both wore formfitting, cleavage-bearing dresses as they posed for fans' photos.

For 18-year-old John Kilgore, attending the signing was the day's top priority.

"It's Carmen Electra," he explained. "What's not to like about a woman like that?"

David Benker, 46, was em-

barrassed to reveal exactly how excited he was to meet the two women.

"Aw, come on," he said. "My son is here and he'll tell his mom."

Most fans sheepishly shuffled by collecting their posters, but a few were brave enough to talk to the pinup pair.

"You look even more beautiful in person," said one blushing fan. "Wow."

Another whipped out his cell phone to show Electra her own photo. "You're on my screen saver right now," he said.

Despite the frenzy of excitement, the fans were well behaved, Electra said: "They were all really sweet."

A Lionsgate release, "Disaster Movie"—which features a wrestling scene between Kardashian and Electra—hits theaters Aug. 29.

In this Feb. 1, 2008 file photo, Carmen Electra arrives at the Snow Queen Vodka's Leather & Laces Super Bowl Party in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Kevin Smith gets raunchier with his new film

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kevin Smith treated his fans to some adults-only material at Comic-Con on Saturday.

The writer-director - a cult favorite at the comic-book convention - showed footage from his new film, "Zack and Miri Make a Porno."

He said the comedy starring Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Justin Long and Traci Lords has been rated NC-17 by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Smith called that rating, which prohibits children under

17 from seeing the film, "disappointing." He said he hopes to have it revised to an R rating.

"I didn't feel it was an NC-17 movie," he told the crowd during a 90-minute presentation peppered with profanity. "I think it's a hard R. I think we earned the R."

Smith said he edited and resubmitted the film three times but couldn't shed the adults-only rating. A hearing will be held Aug. 4 to determine whether his latest cut meets R-rating standards, which would allow a per-

son under 17 to see the film if accompanied by an adult.

An R-rated version of the film is scheduled to be released Oct. 31.

The "Zack and Miri" clip shown to the crowd of thousands featured a heated discussion between a gay couple played by Justin Long and Brandon Routh. Long's character is a porn star who has appeared in various films with unprintable titles, and Zack (Seth Rogen) is fascinated.

Banks, who plays Miri, described the film as "a really

sweet love story," but Smith assured fans it was just as raunchy as any of his past flicks, including "Clerks," "Dogma" and "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back."

The film is a departure visually, though, he said.

"Going into it I wanted it to look better than the stuff we'd done in the past. It kind of looks like a real movie," Smith said.

"The most important thing was how do you shoot sex because I've never done that before. ... I wanted the sex to look much better than my sex."

Top jazz saxophonist Griffin dies at 80

PARIS (AP) — Jazz saxophonist Johnny Griffin, who played with America's greats from Thelonious Monk to Lionel Hampton but chose to live in France, died hours before a concert, his agent said Saturday. He was 80.

Griffin, whose career spanned more than a half-century, was found dead Friday morning in the music room of his home in Maurevoir in western France by his wife Miriam, said Hélène Manfredi, his agent for 28 years. The exact cause of death

was not clear.

Griffin, who had played in the Riviera town of Hyères on Monday, was to give a concert Friday night in the central Cher region.

A Chicago native, the diminutive Griffin took up the sax early on, eventually preferring the tenor saxophone and taking on the nickname "the Little Giant" for the big sounds he blew out of the instrument at breakneck speed.

Born April 24, 1928, Griffin got an early start at Chicago's Du Sable High School where

Nat King Cole, Dinah Washington and other greats grew into their music. He graduated then toured with Hampton's big band. After two years in the army, he played in Chicago and New York, gaining a national reputation with his hard-bop improvisations. In the late 1950s, he played with Art Blakey and Monk.

In the early 1960s, the sax master moved to France where a collection of jazz artists was gathering. He then hoppedscotch to the Netherlands and back to

France. He toured Europe, keeping up the pace even in his final years with recent concerts in Spain, Portugal and Tunisia, his agent said.

Griffin's 1958 album "A Blowing Session," a hard bop jam session with John Coltrane, drummer Art Blakey and others, remains among his signature works.

Griffin is survived by his wife Miriam and four children, one of whom lives in France and the others in the United States.

Funeral services were scheduled for Tuesday at the Poitiers Crematorium, Manfredi said.



In this July 17, 2007 file photo, director McG is seen at the NBC Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Ha Jin wants to visit China

HONG KONG (AP) — On a trip that's put him the closest to his homeland in 23 years, Chinese-American author Ha Jin says he wants to visit China but expressed frustration with censorship of his books.

The 52-year-old National Book Award winner told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday at the Hong Kong Book Fair that if he has the chance, he would like to see his homeland again.

"I'd like to. I want to at least go back to take a look," he said.

Ha Jin, whose real name is Jin Xuefei, went to the United States in 1985 to pursue a doctorate in English and decided not to return after the Chinese military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. He became a U.S. citizen in 1997.

Jin visited Taiwan in 2001 and this is his first trip to Hong Kong, but he hasn't visited the mainland since moving to the U.S.

Jin, who teaches English at Boston University, said Saturday he's interested in visiting China but is discouraged by the difficulty of publishing Chinese translations of his English books in the mainland. He said he also applied to become a visiting professor at the elite Peking University in Beijing in 2004 but never heard back.

Meanwhile, although his 1999 book "Waiting" was published in China in 2002, Jin said a Shanghai publisher's failed plan to publish five of his other books left him disillusioned.

He said the publisher wanted to publish "Under the Red Flag," "The Bridegroom," "Ocean of Words," "In the Pond" and a collection of his poetry but

abandoned the plan after "Under the Red Flag," a collection of short stories set in China, failed to pass censorship.

Jin said the publisher wasn't even willing to consider publishing two other works: "War Trash," about a Chinese soldier captured by Americans in the Korean War, and "The Crazed" about a Chinese university student who takes care of a professor with a brain injury during the Tiananmen Square protests.

"I thought about going back in 2004, then the books ran into this situation, so I wasn't in the mood to go back any more," he said.

Jin also said he doubts his latest book "A Free Life" can be published in China. "A Free Life," which mirrors Jin's personal life, is about a Chinese graduate student who stays in the U.S. after the Tiananmen Square crackdown and starts to write English poetry.

"It's impossible in the short run. They won't be able to accept the spirit of the book," he said.

"Waiting" won the National Book Award in 1998 and "War Trash" was a Pulitzer finalist in 2004 and winner of the PEN/Faulkner award.

Jin said he felt great uncertainty when he first started writing in English. "You're not sure how far you can go. Deep down you understand that you could fail. You could become a total mess," he said.

Jin said he has rejected an offer from Chinese-American director Wayne Wang to adapt "A Free Life" into a movie but appreciates the filmmaker's enthusiasm.

"If I work on it, I would have to put two years into it. I don't have the time," he said.

SF Mayor Newsom weds in Montana

STEVENVILLE, Mont. (AP)—San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom took a break from his busy job and gubernatorial ambitions to marry actress Jennifer Siebel on Saturday at Siebel's parents' Montana ranch.

It is the 34-year-old Siebel's first marriage and the second for Newsom, who divorced legal analyst Kimberly Guilfoyle in March 2006.

Newsom met Siebel in October 2006 and they have been together ever since. Siebel was at Newsom's side when he was sworn in for his second term as mayor in January. She also stood by him after he publicly admitted to having had an affair with a staff member's wife and a drinking problem.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi traveled to Montana to attend the wedding as did other friends and family.

Siebel is an actress who has appeared in the NBC television series "Life" and who attended Stanford Business School.

The 40-year-old mayor and his new bride will honeymoon in Africa.



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, right, and his fiancee Jennifer Siebel, left, wave to spectators during San Francisco's 38th annual gay pride parade in this Sunday, June 29, 2008 file photo.

Father-in-law eager to have grandson needs reality check

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: At 17, I learned I could never have children. I was devastated. I thought there would never be a "happily ever after" for me. I was wrong. I have been happily married to a wonderful man for four years. I was honest with him about my infertility, and it made no difference to him.

The problem is my father-in-law. Although my husband has two sisters, he is the only son of an only son, and his dad is always pushing the baby issue. He says things like, "If I could only have a grandson before I die," or, "When are you going to get busy and have me a baby?" When I remind him that he has a grandson, he says it doesn't matter. He wants one with HIS last name.

My husband thinks I should just tell his father the truth—that I can't have children—but I'm afraid his parents will hate me. It has been seven years since I learned I can't have children, and I still feel an emptiness inside. And just when I think I can't feel any worse, my father-in-law's comments make me feel broken and useless. I could use some advice.

CHILDLESS IN ARKANSAS

DEAR CHILDLESS: I agree with your husband. The two of you should have a frank talk with his parents. Explain to his father that his comments are hurtful and why. He needs to know the truth. If you are "hated" after that, the problem is theirs—not yours.

P.S. Even if you could have children, there is no guarantee that they wouldn't all be girls. Big Daddy is overdue for a dose of reality.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Fred," has never been much of a conversationalist, and since he stopped smoking five months ago, his weight has ballooned. We're both elderly and live on a lake, so we're quite isolated, especially during the long winters.

Although Fred sees his doctor regularly, he's stubborn and I doubt that he has told his doctor everything, including the possibility that he's experiencing depression. He sits by the hour and pouts.

This morning, when I tried to carry on a conversation, he refused to look at me. Finally, I said, "Do you want me to stop talking to you?" to which he replied, "Do whatever you want."

Fred has never been easy to get along with, but his pouting is driving me crazy. I go out for lunch with friends occasionally, but because Fred doesn't want visitors here, that's my only respite. Any suggestions?

I'm ... READY TO BAIL IN MINNESOTA

DEAR READY TO BAIL: If there is anything unusual about Fred's behavior, it should be reported to his doctor because it could be a sign of dementia or other illness. However, if it is just "more of the same" from this charmer you married, perhaps you should ask yourself seriously whether you're better off with him or without him, and if this is how you want to live the rest of your life.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why do people write messages such as "Happy Birthday" to dead people in obituary columns in newspapers? I comprehend the idea of memorials, but to wish someone who has died a happy birthday or anniversary seems ludicrous to me. Will you point this out to your readers and comment?

MYSTIFIED IN EASTERN MAINE

DEAR MYSTIFIED: I'm printing your letter, but I wish you would open your heart a bit and stop being so judgmental. People often do this because a special occasion such as a birthday or an anniversary makes them long for the person who died. They are still grieving over their loss and want their loved one to be remembered.

Midsummer night with Drew Carey, Shakespeare

CLEVELAND (AP)—"The Price Is Right" host Drew Carey is ready to showcase his Shakespearean side in a concert appearance with the Cleveland Orchestra.

The Ohio native says he's "very, very excited" to be narrating "A Midsummer Night's Dream" though he's also a little afraid he might do something by mistake at the Saturday night performance.



Carey

Still, the 50-year-old comic says it's going to be a fun evening and something he'd buy a ticket for.

The Cleveland Orchestra will accompany him with music by Mendelssohn.

It's not Carey's first brush with Shakespeare. He has participated in a couple of charity readings of the Bard's works put together by actor Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson.

Judge tosses Savage's suit against Islamic group

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by conservative radio talk show host Michael Savage against an Islamic civil rights group over its use of a portion of his show in which he called the Quran a "book of hate."

Savage sued the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, for copyright infringement and racketeering lawsuit late last year, claiming the group violated his rights by using a segment of his "Savage Nation" show in a letter-writing campaign to get advertisers to boycott the program. In the broadcast used by CAIR, Savage also called the Muslim holy book "a throwback document."

In her ruling Friday, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston said people who listen to a public broadcast are entitled to use excerpts for purposes of com-

ment and criticism. She also said no evidence was presented to show that advertising on the show's broadcast was affected by CAIR's actions.

The racketeering element of the lawsuit alleged that CAIR was not a civil rights group, but a political organization with ties to terrorist groups. CAIR denies those claims, saying it opposes terrorism and religious extremism.

In an interview with The Associated Press after he filed the lawsuit in December, Savage said he was referring to Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his violent brand of Islamic extremism in the broadcast, not about the religion in general.

Savage's attorney, Daniel Horowitz, told the San Francisco Chronicle he plans to file a new racketeering suit.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



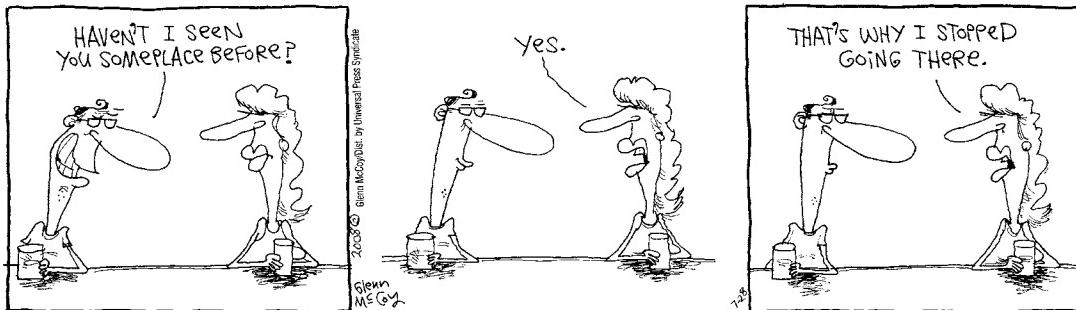
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



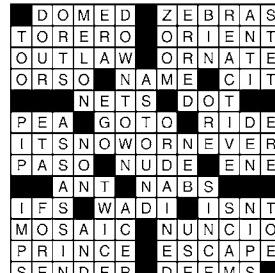
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS									
1	Picket line	41	Courts	2	Pop flavor	22	Radiant		
5	San Diego attraction	42	Answer irritably	3	Census data	24	Legume		
8	Lather	45	Beer gut	4	Freight-train component	25	Imaginary creature		
12	Corporate emblem	49	Dolphin's kin	5	Closed, as a jacket	26	Go over your lines		
13	Squid's fluid	51	Portrayal	6	Music-maker	27	French or German, e.g.		
14	Largest continent	52	Church section	7	Gumbo veggie	29	By way of		
15	Trebek or Haley	53	Meadow	8	Holy iota	30	Every iota		
16	Butcher shop item	54	Cardinal O'Connor's successor	9	Leader's job?	33	Old portico		
18	Car's tank cover	55	Requirement	10	Couturier Christian	36	Barked furiously		
20	Ventilation gizmos	56	PC-sharing setup	11	Enervates	38	One taking great interest?		
21	Vicinity	57	Scepters	17	Kipling lad	40	Lao Tzu's way		
23	Mal de —	DOWN	1	Four	19	Four Corners st.	42	Bridge	
24	Three Bears' meal		1	Metal refuse	20		43	"Unh-unh"	
28	Prima donna		1		21		44	Up to	
31	Before		1		22		46	"Entry forbidden"	
32	Tribe of Natal		1		23		47	Dressed	
34	Zero		1		24		48	Coop group	
35	Needing liniment		1		25		50	Red or Black	
37	Part of Iberia								

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 7-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lori Loughlin, 44; Sally Struthers, 60; Jim Davis, 63; Rick Wright, 65

Happy Birthday: You can make great personal and professional strides this year. Opportunities will be forthcoming if you work hard, share and compromise now. If you put your talents, resources and charisma to the test, you will gain popularity and doors will open for you. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 28, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Life experience is what you should be looking for, so be a little carefree and enjoy what's being offered. You will meet new people who have a different outlook on life and this will lead you to a better, less complicated life. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may feed you information that leaves you feeling uncertain. Don't make a decision based on that. You can make the most progress by being productive at work. A past learning experience will pay off now. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can resolve problems with friends, neighbors or family if you talk seriously about how to make home life better. Be creative. Communication is the name of the game so speak from the heart. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a unique approach to work at home and in your professional life. A good idea presented today will get you the backing you need to follow your dream. Take action and pull in colleagues or friends who can fill jobs. Delegate and win. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let love lead you astray. Refuse to let someone talk you into doing things that will cause you to fall short professionally. Focus on work, travel and developing your ideas. Listen to the advice being given by someone of experience. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you play someone else's game instead of your own, you will become the pawn, not the leader. Travel plans and hooking up with someone you like will help you relax, rejuvenate and reevaluate. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Check out a money deal or investment that looks good. Question anyone who

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can talk anyone into helping out or doing things for you. Show your ability to be practical, hardworking and adaptable. Consider everyone's motives before you commit to a new partnership. ★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your emotions get the better of you. A promise made may not be kept. The less dependent you are, the better. Don't hesitate to reconnect with someone from your past. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There is a lesson to be learned but be careful not to let it cost you too much financially. Use your intuition and your ability to find solutions. Stick to a budget, be aggressive and take the initiative. ★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let love lead you astray. Refuse to let someone talk you into doing things that will cause you to fall short professionally. Focus on work, travel and developing your ideas. Listen to the advice being given by someone of experience. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you play someone else's game instead of your own, you will become the pawn, not the leader. Travel plans and hooking up with someone you like will help you relax, rejuvenate and reevaluate. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Check out a money deal or investment that looks good. Question anyone who

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

tries to convince you to make a change. Be practical and you will stay on the right track. Don't share financially. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can't let things simmer, especially in a relationship about which you've been uncertain. Life is too short to waste being miserable or living a lie. Speak up. ★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be fooled by someone throwing compliments your way. Arguments will develop if you disagree with your partner. Ask an outsider for direction, not someone who has his or her own agenda to fulfill. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You draw interesting people to your side. You follow your heart but are open to suggestions. You are inquisitive, quick to react and like to be where the action is.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	7			6	8
5	7	1	8	4	
6	2				
4	2			7	8
7		5		4	
5	6			2	3
	9	6			
4	8	7	3	9	
6	8			3	4

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	8	3	1	2	6	4	9
9	4	2	8	6	7	5	1	3
6	3	1	5	4	9	8	7	2
3	8	6	9	7	4	2	5	1
2	9	7	1	5	3	4	6	8
4	1	5	2	8	6	9	3	7
1	2	9	4	3	5	7	8	6
8	6	4	7	9	1	3	2	5
5	7	3	6	2	8	1	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

YIDDISH WORDS AND PHRASES

S	G	A	R	O	H	A	E	N	I	K	V	E	L	L
S	E	N	A	U	F	E	R	B	L	U	N	J	I	T
I	L	I	C	Z	T	I	V	H	C	S	K	T	T	S
R	T	G	H	S	S	Z	T	N	E	Y	H	H	E	A
O	I	U	M	H	C	Z	E	Y	D	E	A	S	K	T
S	E	L	O	M	H	H	L	R	V	C	Y	I	H	S
T	K	H	N	O	M	E	M	T	H	R	M	N	C	K
C	H	S	E	O	O	S	A	E	Z	I	R	T	E	
H	S	R	S	Z	P	K	Y	Y	T	T	S	O	O	L
O	I	E	E	I	I	A	R	L	M	T	H	G	P	E
T	R	F	E	N	D	R	A	Y	T	E	A	S	E	H
C	R	L	D	L	E	M	M	U	T	T	B	C	G	C
H	A	U	H	B	H	A	D	N	A	H	S	B	N	O
K	N	E	R	C	V	O	T	L	E	Z	A	M	O	R
A	K	H	S	I	K	A	T	S	U	B	A	L		

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Don't speak too soon

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Need (1) Live-in maid.
Please contact Billy at
483-3338 for more inquiries.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Bible correspondence course
for anyone interested on Saipan or
Tinian. Write to PMB #864,
P.O.Box 10006, Saipan, MP 96950, or
pmcowden@gmail.com, or call 788-9848.

**Subscribe to CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper**
235-NEWS

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent.
One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft.
Garapan area across Treasure
Island Game Club. Contact Emil
De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

© 2008 WHATZIT?™ is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- | |
|------|
| \$25 |
| \$35 |
| \$45 |
| \$55 |

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment,
garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements,
lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

**Call now at 235-2769
for more details.**

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Mike McCarthy committed to Rodgers



Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy speaks at a news conference Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis. McCarthy says there is no new word on whether or not Brett Favre will attend football training camp.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Even Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy isn't quite sure how the Brett Favre unretirement saga will play out over the next few days. But he does know this much: Favre or no Favre, Aaron Rodgers is his starting quarterback.

In his season-opening news conference at Lambeau Field on Saturday, McCarthy strongly affirmed the team's commitment to Rodgers and reiterated that players and coaches spent the off-season planning to move forward after Favre retired in March.

"Aaron Rodgers is the starting quarterback for the Green Bay Packers," McCarthy said. "That's been stated over and over again. I hope we can finally understand that. That's where we are as an organization and as a head coach of the Green Bay Packers. I don't know how else to answer that question."

Packers players are scheduled to report to training camp Sunday and will have their first practice Monday morning. McCarthy acknowledged the possibility that Favre could be there.

"Has he thought about it? I'm sure he has," McCarthy said. "Has he con-

firmed anything? Nothing has been confirmed."

Favre retired in March, but asked to be released from his contract earlier this month after his latest round of flip-flopping on his football future was met with lukewarm enthusiasm from McCarthy and general manager Ted Thompson.

The Packers have no plans to release Favre, whose rights belong to them until his contract expires after the 2010 season. That would leave Favre free to sign with any team, including division rival Minnesota.

Favre could always just stay retired, but his next move might be to show up for camp—or at least try to use the threat of showing up and creating a media circus to force a trade.

Tampa Bay and the New York Jets are emerging as potential trade partners for the Packers, although McCarthy didn't directly address the possibility of a trade Saturday.

McCarthy acknowledged that Favre's presence could become a distraction.

"It'll be a challenge, there's no doubt about it," McCarthy said. "But it's a new challenge and a new year. (It's) different than I personally have ever experienced, but it's something that I

can promise you we'll have a plan for and will be dealt with directly."

McCarthy said he spoke with Favre at the Packers' Hall of Fame banquet at Lambeau a week ago and communicated with him via text message this week, but said he still doesn't know if Favre will really show up.

Favre first would have to file for reinstatement with the league and have his request approved by commissioner Roger Goodell. Then he'd have to pass a team physical.

And even if Favre does all that, he won't necessarily be running plays right away. McCarthy said Favre would more likely be limited to doing individual drills in practice, or working out with players who are rehabilitating injuries.

McCarthy said he wasn't concerned that Favre's presence could cause a rift in the locker room, even if some players want Favre back.

"I don't think it's a huge concern, because it will not be the first time the coach and any of the players will have a disagreement," McCarthy said. "We disagree quite often, but the most important part of disagreeing is having the ability to communicate."

Despite the mind-numbing nature

of the ongoing Favre saga, McCarthy seemed fairly upbeat Saturday. At one point, he jokingly offered \$50 to the first reporter who asked a question that didn't pertain to Favre.

But McCarthy did acknowledge that he was disappointed about how the situation has evolved.

"The way it's gone has been disappointing, I'll say that," McCarthy said. "So you can say that's a surprise."

That's the closest McCarthy and other Packers officials have come to publicly criticizing Favre in recent weeks, even after the quarterback lashed out at Thompson in an interview with Fox News.

"We've taken the high road through this whole process, for as difficult as it's been," McCarthy said. "And we've always operated in the best interest of the Packers and also with the utmost respect for Brett Favre."

But even given Favre's iffy commitment to football, doesn't he still give the Packers their best chance to win in 2008?

"As simple as a question as that sounds, it's obviously more complicated than that," McCarthy said.

Taking Favre back might seem like an easy answer, but doing so would undermine the message McCarthy and his assistants have been preaching to players for nearly five months.

"Moving forward as a football team is really the identity of the whole football team," McCarthy said. "Brett Favre's had an incredible career here. He's been the focal point of the Packers, the face of the Green Bay Packers."

Despite his background as a quarterbacks coach, McCarthy prefers to win with defense—a philosophy that presumably works best with steady but unspectacular play from a quarterback.

"The football team has moved forward with the emphasis on defense," McCarthy said. "Because that's what I believe in."

Even with his firm commitment to Rodgers and the defense, McCarthy couldn't completely rule out the possibility of Favre starting another game for the Packers. But McCarthy's quote—"You never say never"—seemed more like an offhand acknowledgment of the unpredictable nature of the game than a subtle hint that Favre could win his job back.

"If he reinstates, he'll be part of our roster," McCarthy said. "That's really as far as we can go."

ers were allowed to use preferred lies in the fairways for the third straight day.

Reavie played 33 holes in 13 under Friday, shooting 65-64 for a tournament-record matching 13-under 129 total and a three-stroke lead after the completion of the suspended second round Saturday morning.

He made a 15-foot birdie putt on No. 10 to take a three-stroke lead over Kim and Marino at 16 under, but had three bogeys, two birdies and a par on his final six holes to drop back to 15 under.

Bands of rain showers moved in soon after the second round finished, flooding bunkers and fairways. Third-round play was suspended because of lightning at 12:44 p.m., and rain kept the players off the course for 2 hours, 40 minutes.

Bills' 1st-round pick McKelvin signs 5-year deal

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—First-round pick Leodis McKelvin signed a five-year contract potentially worth \$19.4 million with the Buffalo Bills on Saturday, and the cornerback is set to join the team after missing only two days of training camp.

Selected 11th overall out of Troy University, McKelvin signed his rookie contract at the Bills headquarters in Orchard Park and was preparing to join the team at its training camp facility in suburban Rochester after he missed four practices, including two on Saturday. Shortly after McKelvin's agent, Hadley Engelhard, told The Associated Press that his client had agreed to a deal, the Bills announced that the player had signed his contract.

McKelvin was the first defensive back selected in the draft, and will compete with Jabari Greer for a starting job opposite Terrence McGee this season.

Under terms of the deal, McKelvin is guaranteed \$12.6 million, and would have to meet all of his incentive clauses to earn the contract's full value.

McKelvin had been only one of four first-round draft picks yet to sign with their respective teams.

Listed at 5-foot-10 and 184 pounds, McKelvin was the first defensive back selected in the draft, and picked out of the same Sun Belt Conference program that also produced New York Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora and Dallas Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware.

McKelvin, from Waycross, Ga., was a two-year starter and regarded as the most athletic cornerback in this year's draft class. He possesses great speed, is solid in coverage and a sure tackler. McKelvin also is a double-threat on special teams; his eight career returns for touchdowns (seven punts and one kickoff) tied the NCAA Division I-A record.

As a cornerback, he finished his college career with only four interceptions, but proved solid in defending opponents' top receivers.

Last year, McKelvin had six tackles, forced a fumble and broke up three passes in a game against Florida. Two years ago, McKelvin limited Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson—the second pick in last year's NFL Draft—to two catches for 9 yards. The only knock against McKelvin has been that he's dropped some potential interceptions.

Earlier in the day, Bills coach Dick Jauron expressed concern about the practice time McKelvin was missing.

"It's hard to catch up. Hopefully, he'll be in as soon as he's able to be here," Jauron said. "Every practice is significant. ... We can spend extra time with him, but there are reps that just keep going by."

McKelvin, though, is familiar with the Bills defense after taking part in all of the team's spring mini-camp sessions.

Kim, Reavie tied for Canadian Open lead

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Anthony Kim made nine birdies and an eagle in 21 holes Saturday in the Canadian Open for a share of the lead with Chez Reavie during the suspended third round at rain-softened Glen Abbey.

Kim, tied for 26th at 4 under through 15 holes when second-round play was suspended Friday night, went birdie-birdie-eagle Saturday morning for a 2-under 69, then added a bogey-free 64 in the third round to match Reavie at 15 under.

"I've put myself in a good position," said Kim, seeking his third victory of the year. "I'm looking forward to the challenge tomorrow."

Reavie was 2 under through 16 holes when darkness ended play on the course saturated by more than 8 inches of rain in

a week. He had a 25-foot putt from the fringe on No. 17 when he called it a day.

"When we got up to 17, I didn't want to putt. It was too dark to read my putt," said Reavie, the 26-year-old former Arizona State player in his first PGA Tour season. "We figured we had to play 18 in the morning, so what difference does finishing 17 do?"

Kim's morning finish gave him a 7-under 29 on the back nine after he played the front nine Friday in 5-over 40. The 23-year-old American played the final nine holes of the second round and first nine holes of the third in 11-under 60.

He birdied the par-5 18th in fading light to tie Reavie.

"It was a pretty long day," Kim said.

CANADIAN
OPEN

Scott McCarron had a 63—the best round of the week—to get to 12 under. He had 11 birdies, three bogeys—all in the first four holes—and four pars.

Steve Marino (67) also was 12 under, and Billy Mayfair (68) followed at 11 under. Marino birdied the final five holes on the front nine.

Canadian star Mike Weir birdied four of the last five holes for 68 to join to Mark Calcavecchia (67), Sean O'Hair (67) and Nicolas Thompson (70) at 10 under. Two-time defending champion Jim Furyk was 8 under after a 67.

"I'm happy where I'm at," Weir said. "This has been tough for everyone."

Because of the wet conditions, play-

Spaniard all but clinches Tour title



SAINT-AMAND-MONTROND, France (AP) — Carlos Sastre handled his latest test, and is one step from the Tour de France title.

The 33-year-old Spaniard all but locked up victory by holding off Cadel Evans of Australia and other contenders in a decisive time trial in Stage 20 on Saturday—a day before cycling's showcase event ends in Paris.

Worn down by an onslaught from Sastre's powerful CSC team during the three-week race, Evans couldn't muster the leg power he needed to erase a 1 minute, 34 second deficit, and was caught off guard by the Spaniard's skill.

Overall, after more than 84 hours of racing since the July 5 start in western Brest, Sastre leads Evans by 1 minute, 5 seconds, while Bernhard Kohl of Austria is third, 1:20 behind.

By the math of the Tour, that's close—but just enough for the soft-spoken Spanish veteran to take home the yellow jersey on Sunday.

"This is the dream of my life that's become a reality now," said Sastre, who finished in the top 10 in five of his previous seven Tour appearances. "I was feeling better and better and was in top form at the end of this week."

Sunday's finale—an 88.9-mile ride from Etampes to the Champs-Elysees—is likely to be a ride of honor that won't change the overall standings. In the Tour's etiquette, attacks on the leader are frowned upon in the last stage and any attempts at a breakaway by a rival are easy to counter on the flat course anyway.

Expect CSC to protect Sastre hawkishly on Sunday, and keep him out of trouble—like a crash, which looms as

the only imaginable threat to his hold on the jersey.

In the Spanish village of El Barroco, northwest of Madrid, where Sastre lives, hundreds of fans watching the race on a giant screen TV cheered wildly as he crossed the finish line—some jumping and hugging each other in joy.

Sastre made the sign of the cross, kissed his fingers and shook them skyward as he crossed the line. He credited his teammates, who sheltered him from

the wind in the stages after he took the jersey in the last and most punishing Alpine ride Tuesday. That helped him save energy for the time trial.

"On the climbs, CSC were so strong. It comes down to they have two or three times the budget we do, they can straight away buy much better quality riders," said Evans, the Silence Lotto team leader.

"Strength in numbers, it was no surprise," he said. "But Sastre's ride in the time trial today for me was a real surprise."

Kohl's Gerolsteiner teammate Stefan Schumacher of Germany won the time trial, a 32.9-mile race against the clock in central France from Cerilly to Saint-Amand-Montrond—for his second stage win this year.

Kohl, who began 1:33 back of Sastre, gave a standout performance to retain third place overall. He's better known as a solid climber, having already locked up the polka-dot jersey given to the Tour's best mountain man.

The Austrian deprived a podium spot



Carlos Sastre of Spain reacts as he crosses the finish line as he retains the overall leader's yellow jersey during the 20th stage of the Tour de France cycling race, a 53 kilometers (33 miles) individual time trial between Cerilly and Saint-Amand-Montrond, central France, Saturday July 26, 2008. AP

Yankees surge to 8-0 since All-Star break with 10-3 win over Boston



BOSTON (AP) — Robinson Cano homered and drove in three

runs, Andy Pettitte gave the Yankees another strong start and New York beat the Boston Red Sox 10-3 for its season-best eighth straight win on Saturday.

Newly acquired Xavier Nady started in left field in his first game with New York, and reliever Damaso Marte struck out David Ortiz in a key spot. The Yankees finalized their deal with Pittsburgh on Saturday, acquiring Nady and Marte for four minor leaguers.

Cano went 3-for-4 with his ninth homer and a two-run double, improving to 18-for-35 since the All-Star break.

Pettitte (12-7) allowed one earned run and struck out seven over six innings to continue a brilliant run by New York starters. They've allowed three earned runs or less in 15 of their last 16 games.

Rangers 9, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Josh Hamilton hit a three-run homer to increase his major league-leading RBI total to 103, and Texas beat All-Star pitcher Justin Duchscherer.

Chris Davis hit a solo homer and doubled in a run, Marlon Byrd added a solo shot and Jarrod Saltalamacchia had a two-run double for the Rangers, who took the lead in the third. But Duchscherer settled down and retired eight straight before running into more trouble.

Blue Jays 8, Mariners 3

At Toronto, Alex Rios homered twice, David Purcey earned his first major league win and streaking Toronto handed Seattle its season-tying seventh consecutive defeat.

The Blue Jays equaled a season high by winning their fifth straight.

Purcey (1-1), who made two spot starts for Toronto this season, gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Angels 11, Orioles 6

At Baltimore, Torii Hunter homered twice, had five RBIs and scored four runs to carry Los Angeles past skidding Baltimore.

Casey Kotchman and Juan Rivera also homered for the Angels, and Garrett Anderson became the first player in franchise history to score 1,000 runs.

Aubrey Huff and Luke Scott homered for the Orioles, who have lost five straight. They are winless in eight consecutive series after dropping the first two games of this three-game set.

White Sox 7, Tigers 6

At Detroit, Carlos Quentin and Jermaine Dye hit consecutive homers and drove in two runs apiece to help Chicago hold off Detroit.

Gary Sheffield and Magglio Ordonez homered for the Tigers.

John Danks (8-4) allowed five runs—four earned—and eight hits in six innings to improve to 5-0 in his last 11 starts.

Twins 11, Indians 4

At Cleveland, Brian Buscher hit a three-run homer and had a career-high five RBIs to help Minnesota end a five-game losing streak with a victory over Cleveland.

Fausto Carmona (4-3) had a rocky return to the Indians' rotation. The right-hander, who missed two months with a strained left hip, allowed nine runs in 2 1-3 innings, including six in the first.

Delmon Young had three hits for the Twins, including a two-run single.

Rays 5, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Carl Crawford's tiebreaking, two-run triple with two outs in the eighth inning sent Tampa Bay past Kansas City.

Teammate Carlos Pena added a home run in the ninth, his 17th of the season. He is batting .393 with four home runs and 11 RBIs against the Royals this season.

Crawford, who had his seventh career two-triple game and second of the season, drove Horacio Ramirez's pitch to right-center in the eighth, scoring Akinori Iwamura and B.J. Upton to give the Rays a 4-2 lead.

Phillies 10, Braves 9

At Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs delivered a three-run homer in a seven-run fifth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied past the Atlanta Braves to spoil Mike Hampton's return to the major leagues.

Making his first appearance since August 2005, Hampton gave up six runs and eight hits in four-plus innings and couldn't protect a 9-3 lead. The two-time All-Star overcame two major operations on his left elbow and an assortment of other injuries to finally make it back.

Marlins 3, Cubs 2, 12 innings

At Chicago, Jeremy Hermida hit two homers and scored the decisive run on Jorge Cantu's 12th-inning double to lead Florida over Chicago.

Rich Harden struck out 10 for the third time in three starts with Chicago, but the Marlins fought back to win despite striking out 20 times.

Hermida, who had three hits and two RBIs, homered leading off the eighth against Sean Marshall to tie the score at 2.

Hermida then doubled with two outs in the 12th off Chad Gaudin (0-1) and scored on Cantu's double down the left-field line.

Brewers 6, Astros 4

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun homered and drove in four runs, Bill Hall hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning and Milwaukee grabbed a share of the National League Central lead with a victory over Houston.

The Brewers tied it with two runs in the seventh and went in front in the eighth. Corey Hart hit Doug Brocail's

from Denis Menchov of Russia and Christian Vande Velde of the United States, who were each faster than Kohl, Sastre and Evans on Saturday—but had too big a deficit before the stage.

This is the second straight year that the Tour has seen one of its tightest finishes, with the lead up for grabs going into the final time trial—giving some much-needed sporting drama to an event that has been dogged by doping scandals for several years.

Three cyclists, including Italian star Riccardo Ricco, were kicked out of the race during the first two weeks. Sastre, however, insisted his success has come through hard work and sacrifice, saying unequivocally: "I'm clean."

"There have been cheaters in the past, and there always will be," he said. "But there are people who work silently, with honesty, and who are outside of all these controversies."

Sastre is poised to become the third Spaniard in a row to win cycling's premier race. Alberto Contador won last year and Oscar Pereiro inherited the 2006 title that Floyd Landis of the United States lost in a doping scandal.

Evans was second last year, 23 seconds behind Contador.

In the stage, Schumacher clocked 1 hour, 3 minutes, 50 seconds, trailed by CSC rider Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland, 21 seconds back. Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg was third, 1:01 behind. Sastre was 12th, 2:34 back.

Evans had been seen as a favorite: He placed second in two Tour time trials last year that were about the same length. But on Saturday, he finished seventh, 2:05 behind the German.

"I will be back next year," said Evans, 31. "I think I have three or four good Tours left in me."

Rockies 5, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Colorado piled up 15 hits in less than five innings off Homer Bailey, another offensive splurge that sent Jorge De La Rosa and Colorado to a victory over Cincinnati.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 607th career homer off De La Rosa (5-5), who gave up two hits in 6 2-3 innings of a breakthrough win. The left-hander hadn't won a game on the road all season.

Every Rockies starter had at least one hit off the right-handed Bailey (0-4), who left after De La Rosa singled home a pair of runs with two outs in the fourth for a 5-1 lead.

Padres 9, Pirates 6

At Pittsburgh, Adrian Gonzalez hit two of San Diego's four home runs while driving in four runs in a victory over the Pittsburgh.

Gonzalez and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit three-run homers off John Van Benschoten (1-3), who gave up seven runs, four extra-base hits and walked four in 1 2-3 innings of another miserable start. As a starter, the former first-round draft pick is 0-9 the last two seasons and 1-11 in his career.

Josh Banks (3-4) won for the first time in seven starts since June 19 despite giving up five runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings.

DOMINICAN

From Page 28

boys from Pontezuela racked up 10 monster runs in the second inning, highlighted by three homeruns—two from Jose Santiago and one from Ivan Ramos. The latter also hit a long ball in the first inning.

After another superb inning by Jimenez—he only gave up a single to Iguel in the third—the

Dominican Republic tucked in two more runs in the bottom of third with Ramos hitting another homer to make it 16-0.

Jimenez again silenced the CNMI's bats in the third, while San Nicolas' replacement, Giovanni Ayuyu, finally got comfortable on the mound and finally kept the Dominican Republic scoreless.

With the CNMI needing at least seven runs to avert a shortened game defeat, Regis gave

them a ray of hope when he singled off Jimenez.

The fiery pitcher, however, quickly made amends and struck out Mario Salas before Ryan Ada was called out on a 6-3-2 play, but not before Regis advanced to second. He would later make it to third on a single by Elton Santos before racing home when Iguel connected against Jimenez for the CNMI's first and only run of the game.

The celebration, however, was short-lived for the CNMI as Lawrence Dikito reached first base but his line drive grounded out to shortstop Manuel Tejada who quickly tagged out Iguel for the last play of the game.

Santiago drove in seven runs and hit a pair of homers to lead Dominican Republic, who also got three homers from Ramos on top of his six RBIs. Edison Flete also homered for the Do-

mican Republic.

Iguel led the CNMI in the loss, going 1-for-2 with one RBI. Regis, meanwhile, scored the lone run for the Islanders.

Jimenez was superb at the plate for Dominican Republic, pitching in no relief while compiling three strikeouts and no walks, while giving up only four hits, one run, and an error.

San Nicolas and Ayuyu, meanwhile, combined for 14

hits that led to 16 runs, 11 errors, four walks, while striking out four batters.

The CNMI tries to rebound against their loss to the Dominican Republic when it takes on Puerto Rico today beginning at 12pm, East Coast time.

In other 2008 Big League World Series results: West beat East, 4-2; Puerto Rico hammered Germany, 6-3; Central defeated Southwest, 12-8; and S.C. District I edged South, 2-0.

CENTURY

From Page 28

members Ador Dimaano, Raul Dumapit, Raphael Zapanta, Ross Zapanta, Raymond Zapanta, and Roman Mamaug. Jerry Tan, Ruselle Zapanta, and Simon Manacop are also members of the champion team.

Century Insurance finished eight wins ahead of runner-up Bank of Saipan (42-30) and 12 wins in front of third placers Staxx (38-44) and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan (38-44). Rounding out the Top 5 was The Shark (35-37).

The aforementioned teams received between \$500 and \$100 depending on their place in the

team standings.

Other teams that took part in the 24th season of the Thursday Night League were PSG Insurance/REA (35-37), The Company (32-40), Localz (32-40), Royal Crown Insurance (31-41), and DFS (27-45).

In the individual awards, Manacop won the high average award with his 197.84 average, while The Shark's Gloria Omechalang copped the award for women with her 167.05.

PSG Insurance's Manuel Castro and Omechalang were also honored as most improved bowlers after hiking their averages to 11.44 and 13.24, respectively, this past season.

The Company's Joe Sugue, meanwhile, won the high

game scratch and high game with handicap with his respective rolls of 277 and 298. Dimaano finished second in the former with his 267, while Bank of Saipan's Ronald Epan was runner-up in the latter with his 296.

Omechalang won both categories for women with her 226 in the high game scratch and 256 in the high game with handicap.

High series scratch belonged to The Shark's Dannie Robles with his 729, followed by the 704 of Staxx's Richard Leong. Omechalang won for the women with her 687.

Epan was without peer in the high series with handicap with his 755 with Robles 747 coming in second. Omechalang with its 2,957.

completed her sweep of the individual awards by nailing the women's award for the category with her 687.

In the special team awards, Century Insurance won the high game scratch with its 1,058 with The Shark running second with its 1,046.

The Company topped the high game with handicap with its 1,179 followed by the 1,140 of The Shark.

Staxx ruled the high series scratch with its 2,980 with Century Insurance the runner-up with its 2,957.

Last but not the least, The Shark's 3,220 was No. 1 in the high series with handicap with the No. 2 spot going to Staxx with its 3,214.

NO LIGHTS

From Page 28

and San Roque to go down here spending all that gas and then the power turns off... we just don't know. So as off now the games are cancelled," he said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last Friday.

Dela Cruz said the one week lost due to power outage means that the league would probably have to be extended until mid-September.

"Nothing much we can do about the power outage. The good thing I'm doing is I'm informing them ahead of time. These power outages are prolonging our league. Before the power outages, the league had five weeks to go but because there were no games last week, the league still has six weeks to go," he said.

One solution, Dela Cruz, said is for the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League to utilize the Tuesday and Thursday schedule that used to belong to the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League.

"The government league will probably be played everyday now just try to finish this off."

The July 18 results from the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League, meanwhile, saw Legislature beat Department of Public Safety, 91-74, in the first game with Northern Marianas College nipping Tinian, 88-84, in the second.

Meanwhile, SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said the league will just have to tough it up and try to schedule around the power outages at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

"It leaves us no choice but to play the game hoping the power

will not be shut down," he said after the playoffs of the BSML kicked off last week.

Rogolifoi said Game 1 between pennant champion and undefeated Rock Steady and San Roque D-9ers will be played tonight and will continue from where it left off last July 21, which was in the bottom of the second inning with the score tied at 0-0.

Tuesday's action will then see the Rangers and Falcons square off in a winner-take-all Game 3 after the latter tied the series at 1-1 last Friday.

Wednesday, meanwhile, will be Game 2 of the Rock Steady/D-9ers series and Game 3, if necessary, will be played on Thursday. Friday will be reserved for the makeup game.

Rogolifoi said the best-of-five championship between the winners of both semifinals will begin on Monday, Aug. 4.

human feats that I can't watch guys relying on only their natural talents. I feel as if I'm watching Spider-Man try to scale a building without his bug-bite-induced spidey skills—that is to say, it's like watching that creepy French guy who gets arrested for scaling buildings. Again, you wind up just hoping for a crash.

That's why your favorite professional sports league isn't doing what cycling is, which is just sending all the dopers immediately home. Major League Baseball might be trying to eliminate steroids, but there are good reasons why George Mitchell didn't recommend expelling Jason Giambi or Gary Sheffield in his finger-pointing report on ste-

roids in baseball. The main one was because those guys were so raged up from juice that they'd run over to his house and rip his tiny, intellectual, New England limbs off. But also because they are intense competitors who, with or without steroids, make baseball great. Although, without steroids, significantly less great.

The obvious course of action in our Botoxed, Cialised, Xanaxed, micro-dermabraded society is to let people do what they want to their bodies and push human performance as far as science will allow. But if that's considered too medically dangerous—or, more likely, an affront to our ethos of self-betterment through struggle—then we need to wean ourselves off performance-enhanced

sports slowly.

I suggest the equivalent of a tax on performance enhancement. Cyclists take a few minutes off their overall time for EPO. Maybe a 15-homer handicap for steroids that is applied throughout the baseball season, so that every fourth home run is called foul. NFL linemen who are doping have to wear 25-pound weights on each ankle. Women with significant plastic surgery will have to get a tasteful tattoo reflecting their actual birth dates.

Another year of this enforced mediocrity and I'm going to stop being a cycling fan. Which means the other cycling fan in America will have no one to blog for.

NO DOPING

From Page 28

par, so that I wouldn't be able to tell that the overall race wasn't as good. But I can. They're not Little Leaguers who forget to run after a hit, it's just that no one does anything spectacular. No one has attacked the other riders by sprinting off dramatically during a steep climb. In fact, the peloton is riding so slowly and carefully, there has been only one really awesome crash. The rider likely to win with the best overall time on Sunday, Cadel Evans, at this writing has failed to win a single stage of the race. Or even get cancer.

I've gotten so used to super-

roids in baseball. The main one was because those guys were so raged up from juice that they'd run over to his house and rip his tiny, intellectual, New England limbs off. But also because they are intense competitors who, with or without steroids, make baseball great. Although, without steroids, significantly less great.

The obvious course of action in our Botoxed, Cialised, Xanaxed, micro-dermabraded society is to let people do what they want to their bodies and push human performance as far as science will allow. But if that's considered too medically dangerous—or, more likely, an affront to our ethos of self-betterment through struggle—then we need to wean ourselves off performance-enhanced

sports slowly.

I suggest the equivalent of a tax on performance enhancement. Cyclists take a few minutes off their overall time for EPO. Maybe a 15-homer handicap for steroids that is applied throughout the baseball season, so that every fourth home run is called foul. NFL linemen who are doping have to wear 25-pound weights on each ankle. Women with significant plastic surgery will have to get a tasteful tattoo reflecting their actual birth dates.

Another year of this enforced mediocrity and I'm going to stop being a cycling fan. Which means the other cycling fan in America will have no one to blog for.

minican Republic.

Iguel led the CNMI in the loss, going 1-for-2 with one RBI. Regis, meanwhile, scored the lone run for the Islanders.

Jimenez was superb at the plate for Dominican Republic, pitching in no relief while compiling three strikeouts and no walks, while giving up only four hits, one run, and an error.

San Nicolas and Ayuyu, meanwhile, combined for 14

hits that led to 16 runs, 11 errors, four walks, while striking out four batters.

The CNMI tries to rebound against their loss to the Dominican Republic when it takes on Puerto Rico today beginning at 12pm, East Coast time.

In other 2008 Big League World Series results: West beat East, 4-2; Puerto Rico hammered Germany, 6-3; Central defeated Southwest, 12-8; and S.C. District I edged South, 2-0.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	61	42	.592	—
Boston	60	45	.571	2
New York	58	45	.563	3
Toronto	53	51	.510	8 1/2
Baltimore	48	55	.466	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	59	43	.578	—
Minnesota	56	47	.544	3 1/2
Detroit	52	51	.505	7 1/2
Cleveland	45	57	.441	14
Kansas City	46	59	.438	14 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	64	39	.621	—
Texas	54	50	.519	10 1/2
Oakland	52	51	.505	12
Seattle	38	65	.369	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	56	48	.538	—
Florida	55	49	.529	1
Philadelphia	55	49	.529	1
Atlanta	49	54	.476	6 1/2
Washington	38	66	.365	18

Central Division

	W
--	---

The Week in Sports

Kaike triumph, Ol'Aces victory dominate headlines

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Triathletes Maimi Shimizu and Ken Halliday and the O'Aces basketball team were clearly the best stories in sports this past week.

Shimizu and Halliday made history when they became the first participants from the CNMI to complete the Kaike Triathlon during its 28th staging last July 20 in Tottori Prefecture, Yonago City in Kaike, Japan.

Shimizu finished the course in 10:42:32, which was 103rd overall and seventh among women participants. Tinian transplant Halliday, meanwhile, crossed the finish line 201st overall with a time of 11:31:43.

Ol'Aces, for their part, took home the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League championship trophy after finally completing its Game 3 win against Advance X-Terminators, 124-110, Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The final game of the best-of-three series between the Oleai team and the pennant champions was originally played last July 17, but an unexpected power outage stalled Ol'Aces' march to the championship with 3:30 left in the contest and Ol'Aces ahead by 13 points, 109-96.

In other sports news last week, Rusty Musca won the 2008 PBA Bowler of the Year Tournament, two age group records were broken in the 2008 SSC Summer Classic, Ronald Villafria took part in the Mt. Fuji Marathon, and the CNMI bagged third in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Little League Tournament in Hong Kong.

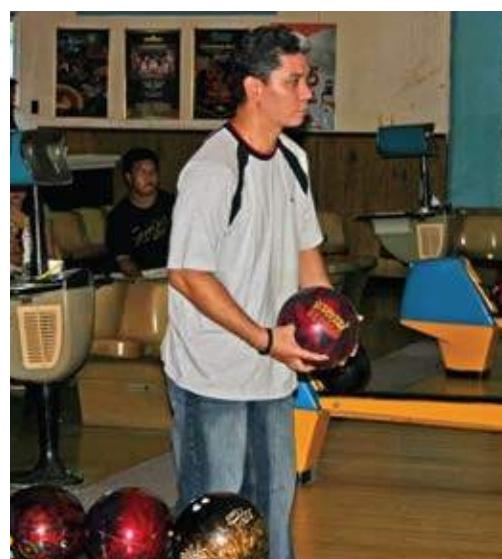
It was a Cinderella story for Musca after he was the 13th and final qualifier for the nine-game roll-off last July 20 but then proceeded to top it before out-dueling youth bowler Raymond Zapanta in the finals.

Musca lost Game 1, 165-210, but rebounded nicely by beating Zapanta, 150-143, in Game 2 to win one of local bowling's most coveted trophies.

Grace Kimball and Kensuke Kimura, for their part, reset age group records after taking part in the 2008 SSC Summer Classic last July 18 and 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Maimi Shimizu and Ken Halliday raise each other's arms in triumph after completing the 28th Kaike Triathlon last July 20 in Tottori Prefecture, Yonago City, Japan.



Right, GEC Pawnshop players accept the 40-and-over championship trophy during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

Left, Rusty Musca won the 2008 Philippine Bowling Association Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament after out-dueling youth bowler Raymond Zapanta in the finals last July 20 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

MARK RABAGO



Give of Ol'Aces players pose with the championship trophy shortly after another power outage disrupted the awards ceremony of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CNMI runner Ronald Villafria poses on top of Mt. Fuji during one of his practice runs earlier this week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Kimball made waves in the pool when her 1:05.92 in the 100m freestyle set a new record in the girls' 12-and-under age group, while Kimura broke Robert Jordan's long-standing 1,500m freestyle age group record by swimming it in 19:43.27

Villafria, for his part, already went through four pairs of running shoes during his practice ascents and descents to the 12,388-foot Mt. Fuji.

The CNMI Major League All-Stars, on the other hand, salvaged third place when they beat South Korea, 12-7, in the battle of pool runners-up last Thursday in the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament at the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

The Ford Rangers and Tanapag Falcons split the first two games of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League last Wednesday and Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Ditto for Finance/Shipping and Casino Titans after the former leveled their best-of-three championship series in the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League at a game apiece following a 75-63 victory last July 20. Casino Titans took Game 1, 91-71, last July 17.



Above, Saipan Swim Club's Kimball made waves in the pool in the 2008 SSC Summer Classic when her 1:05.92 in the 100m freestyle set a new record in the girls' 12-and-under age group.

DAN KIMBALL



Right, Tsunami Saipan's Kimura broke Robert Jordan's long-standing 1500m freestyle age group record by swimming it in 19:43.27 in last July 18 and 19's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Ford Rangers and Tanapag Falcons split the first two games of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League last Wednesday and Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Casino Titans beat Finance/Shipping, 91-71, in Game 1 of the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last July 17 at the staff housing basketball court.



Kaike triumph, O'Aces victory dominate headlines
 Triathletes Maimi Shimizu and Ken Halliday and the O'Aces basketball team were clearly the best stories in sports this past week.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Favre or no Favre, McCarthy committed to Rodgers

Even Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy isn't quite sure how the Brett Favre unretirement saga will play out over the next few days.

24

Dominican Republic throttles CNMI, 16-1

By MARK RABAGO
 mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

It was not an auspicious debut at all for the CNMI Big League All-Stars after they were badly beaten by the Dominican Republic, 16-1, in the 2008 Big League World Series yesterday in Easley, South Carolina.

Manager Robert Magofna's boys were out of sync early and probably were still feeling the effects of jetlag in their 10-run mercy run rule loss to the Latin America II champions.

It also didn't help that Dominican Republic's flame-throwing pitcher Odalis Jimenez had total control of both sides of the plate and shutout the CNMI in the first four innings before Jesus Iguel's single in the fifth brought home Smith Regis.

While Jimenez was dealing and wheeling on the mound, the Dominican Republic hitters were doing their damage from the plate.

They first pelted CNMI ace Nicolas San Nicolas for five hits in the first inning that gave the Latin America II champions a 4-0 lead.

That was just the start though as the See DOMINICAN on Page 26



GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The CNMI Big League All-Stars pose with Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice president Mike Borja, right, donning their new Asia-Pacific jerseys at the opening of the 2008 Big League World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

Century Insurance tops Thursday Night League anew



MARK RABAGO

Century Insurance members, from left, Ross Zapanta, Raymond Zapanta, Raphael Zapanta, Raul Dumapit, and Ador Dimaano pose with their PBA-CBC Thursday Night League trophy during the awards ceremony at the Capital Bowling Center last July 24.

No lights, no games at Oleai

By MARK RABAGO
 mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium forced them to cancel all games, last week.

"We're actually playing it by ear. Whenever we have scheduled games we first confirm with CUC about the scheduled power outage at the gym and that's when we schedule the games."

"Lately this whole week, however, we haven't been having games because our power outage was scheduled between 8pm to 10pm, but lately it turns off anywhere from 6:30pm to 10 o'clock. So it's no use for players coming from Kagman

See NO LIGHTS on Page 26

The power outages at the Oleai Sports Complex have wrought havoc on the schedules of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League and the playoffs of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled brownouts

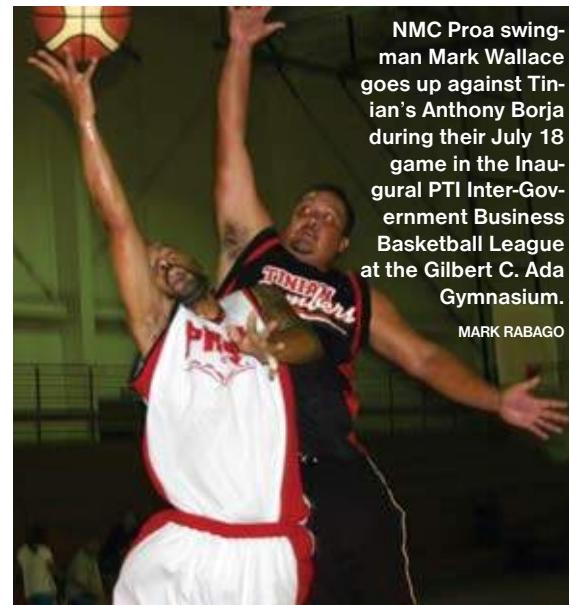
By MARK RABAGO
 mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

Century Insurance had everything covered during the 24th season of the Philippine Bowling Association-Capital Bowling Center Thursday Night League and romped away with the overall championship based on its 50-22 win-loss record.

Members of the team were honored in a simple ceremony last July 24 at the Garapan bowling venue prior to the kickoff of the 25th season of the weekly team bowling competition.

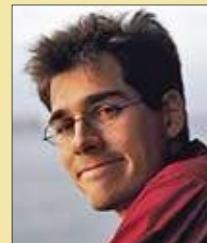
On hand to receive their championship trophy were Century Insurance See DOMINICAN on Page 26

NMC Proa swing-man Mark Wallace goes up against Tinian's Anthony Borja during their July 18 game in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
 MARK RABAGO



By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times.
 E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com



No doping, no drama

You might not have noticed that this is the lamest Tour de France ever, probably because you already find guys racing bicycles to be the lamest thing ever. But because of my desire to be even snottier and more boring than I am, I've been following cycling since 1994 and have learned to appreciate the subtleties of team strategy, drafting, counter-attacks and a 20-cyclist crash down a mountainside.

The reason this year's Tour is miserably boring is that the race's organizers have severely cracked down on doping. So before you argue that your favorite sport—baseball, football, horse racing, anything at the Olympics—has to get tough about performance-enhancing drugs, know that if it does, you're about to endure years of slow, amateurish, uninspired athleticism. Your sport will be as exciting as guys racing bicycles.

Sure, there was some drug use on the Tour this year. But not nearly enough. Yes, Ricardo Ricco, a guy who won two stages, was tossed out for testing positive for EPO. His team immediately withdrew—the equivalent of Major League Baseball just calling it quits in July.

But that's nothing. Cycling was once the greatest sport in the world for doping. Guys used to ride 100 miles up the Alps, immediately run over to a reporter, smile through an interview, and then tear their bikes apart and eat them like they were on "That's Incredible!" The only sport to rival cycling for doping was the National Doping League.

The cleaned-up Tour is unwatchable. Apparently, if an entire sport has been using performance-enhancing drugs for decades, when you toss out the dopers, you're not left with anyone who wants to win badly enough. The best racers in the world—in terms of natural ability and attitude—aren't even racing this year. Some were caught doping. Others were just unlucky: Their teammates doped, so their team got disqualified.

Still, as the Tour began July 5, I hoped that all the riders would be equally sub- See NO DOPING on Page 26